

WEEKEND TIMES

GRANDER OPERA



Earls Court moves to Birmingham next week, when Grace Bumbry stars in another spectacular *Aida*. Weekend Times follows the score tomorrow

MAESTRO'S MISTAKE



Only Leonard Bernstein could have begun the national anthem when the Queen was halfway down the stairs. Humphrey Burton recalls what happened next in Weekend Times

Saturday Review

PUNK SHOCKER



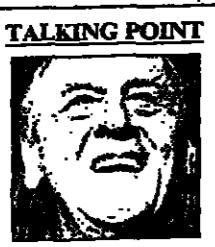
Vivienne Westwood, former fashion designer to the punks, revels in unpopular ideas, as she explains in tomorrow's Saturday Review

NORMAN'S WISDOM



George Bush? Still a wimp, argues Norman Mailer, although even the great carouser has given up drinking, as he tells the Saturday Review

TODAY IN THE TIMES



When the Duke of Devonshire hosts a summit at Chatsworth, he likes to make sure the surroundings are comfortable. The Kate Muir interview Page 14



Margaret Thatcher — or is it John Thatcher? — sounds like a dream ticket for the Tories. What would Harold Callaghan say? Page 22

MOVING IMAGE

John Major — or is it Margaret Thatcher? — sounds like a dream ticket for the Tories. What would Harold Callaghan say? Page 22

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Tories pledge to keep free health care as Heseltine rouses conference

Waldegrave hits at Labour NHS 'scare stories'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM Waldegrave launched the government's fightback in the political battle over the health service yesterday with promises of a patient's charter that would set out "ten commandments" for the NHS and a passionate denunciation of Labour's privatisation "scare stories".

The health secretary told the Conservative party conference that the charter, to be published soon, would enshrine the principle of free access to health care for everyone, regardless of means.

He accused Labour of being "truly sick" and of frightening vulnerable people with its claims that the Conservatives intended to privatisate the health service. "Their scare is what is called in football a professional foul. They know it's wrong and think that it's worth it. What they are doing

is setting out quite deliberately to frighten some of the most vulnerable people in our society. They exploit the very people they pretend to care for. They do it callously and with calculation."

Mr Waldegrave made plain that reforms to modernise the health service would go ahead despite Labour's determination to make the NHS the centrepiece of its election campaign — "anything else would betray the patients for whom we stand". The patient's charter would aim to bring down waiting times and set higher management standards. It would, create, in effect, the first written constitution for the NHS, its "ten commandments".

"The first and most important of those rights enshrines the very principle which is the NHS: equal access to free health care throughout the country for everybody, regardless of their means. That is the first and

greatest health service commandment."

Mr Waldegrave, still battling with the Treasury for his 1992-3 budget, countered polls showing that two-thirds of people still believe the Tories would privatise the NHS with others saying that 88 per cent of patients were satisfied with their service in hospital and 91 per cent satisfied with treatment by their GPs.

He also announced, as expected, an enquiry into health care provision in London to lead to "careful modernisation of the capital's health service".

Mr Waldegrave's speech, showing a fire and passion not previously the hallmark of his political style, earned him a standing ovation and was held by colleagues to have removed question marks about his cabinet future. The prime minister later described it as brilliant.

Representatives believed he had got the Tories off the back foot on an issue that Labour has made its own with his mockery of Labour's spending promises and his resolute defence of the need to modernise the health service and ensure that it gave value for money.

But the British Medical Association and Labour said he had failed to address the underfunding of the health service. The Royal College of Nurses expressed similar concern, but welcomed the commitment to the principle of free health care for all.

Mr Waldegrave's success came on a day that saw a suddenly more confident Tory party welcome back Michael Heseltine as a conference hero. Party managers' fears that Mr Heseltine, whose leadership challenge brought down Margaret Thatcher, could be given a cool reception had redoubled after Mrs Thatcher's rapturous reception on Wednesday. But after six years of being denied the conference platform, he was given an almost equally enthusiastic ovation after a typically rumbustious speech in which he promised that when the Tories were given the signal by John Major they would "take the Labour party apart as never before".

Mr Heseltine pleased the conference by announcing legislation to deny councillors who refuse to pay the community charge the right to vote on local taxation. He asked: "What community ethic entitles Labour councillors to inflate local bills which they then refuse to pay themselves? It's worse that that, they then expect their constituents to pay on their behalf. To those councillors who won't pay their bills, I say, 'won't pay, can't vote'."

The success enjoyed by Mr Heseltine and Mrs Thatcher has increased the pressure on the prime minister to make a big impression with his first conference speech as leader tomorrow. Mr Major will be expected to set out a clear programme of his priorities for the party to launch them on the election campaign.

This column left Mr Heseltine (so to speak) more than a year ago, describing his non-appearance the morning after the embarrassment of a fumbled, under-the-table pass at the Tory party. Today we must not push sexual innuendo too far, but, yesterday morning, the environment secretary reached first base, and did it in style.

Cancelled operations, page 2

Tories at Blackpool, page 8

Peter Riddell, page 16

Leading article, page 17



Their darling Heseltine: the environment secretary during his speech, which earned him a tumultuous ovation, at the Conservative conference yesterday

MPs launch enquiry into tunnel impact

By SHEILA GUNN AND MICHAEL DYNES

A PARLIAMENTARY enquiry will be launched later this month into the impact of the Channel tunnel because of MPs' doubts about the ability of British Rail to cope with passenger and freight traffic.

As MPs expressed their unhappiness, criticism over the government's approval of an eastern approach for the high-speed rail link into London via Stratford intensified last night when the long-term consequences of the decision began to unfold.

In addition to the environmental impact of the new route in the east, it emerged that freight trains formerly destined to run through south-west London could now be switched to the north London line through West Hampstead, Finchley, Kentish Town, Caledonian Road, Homerton, and Hackney Wick.

The all-party Commons transport committee will set out to find what transport services and facilities will

the Channel tunnel's safety and policing arrangements. Its first session on Thursday will take evidence in Maidstone town hall, Kent, from the county's chief constable Paul Condon and Jeremy Beech, the chief fire officer.

Last night, ministers were accused of jeopardising Britain's economic prospects by delaying construction of the link, sacrificing the interests of commuters in London and the South-east to help safeguard a

Continued on page 22, col 3

Yugoslav army to 'pull out' of Croatia

By GEORGE BROWN
IN THE HAGUE AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Yugoslav federal army has apparently agreed to pull out of Croatia within the next month, Hans van den Brook, the Dutch foreign minister, said last night.

He spoke after mediating the EC-sponsored peace talks for Yugoslavia between the leaders of Croatia, Serbia and the federal military. Mr van den Brook said that the withdrawal was to begin immediately and it would be matched by a simultaneous lifting of Croatian blockades around federal army barracks in the secessionist republic. The significance of the agreement was not immediately clear.

Blockades of Adriatic ports and federal army barracks in Croatia were already being lifted last night, European Community ceasefire monitors said. Simon Smits, the monitoring mission spokesman, said naval and land blockades along the Dalmatian coast, where seven ports had been besieged, were being removed. Croatian forces were also ending their siege of the army's Borongaj barracks in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

The apparent easing of the blockades came as President Gorbachev invited the presidents of Serbia and Croatia, Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman, to visit Moscow for talks on ending the fighting. Mr Gorbachev's initiative occurred as the EC's fragile Yugoslav peace conference brought the president of Croatia face-to-face with the Serbian general whose pilots tried to assassinate him in last Monday's bombing of Zagreb's presidential offices.

Fierce fighting was reported earlier yesterday in the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar. One hundred Yugoslav federal soldiers were killed, according to Croatian television and radio, although the federal army has denied sustaining any losses. Croatian television reported heavy shelling from Karavsa rockets, tanks and mortar fire, while the radio reported fighting in the streets and an attack by "several hundreds of soldiers" during the afternoon.

However, this was before the ceasefire monitors' spokesman said the two sides were finally complying with a ceasefire agreement that they agreed on Tuesday.

Earlier reports, page 10

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TT 11/10

Wannabee streetwise? The answer is in Brewer's

By PHILIP HOWARD, LITERARY EDITOR

IS YOUR slub zoo daddy a wannabee kidul? Pardon me for living. Which being translated means, roughly, does your divorced father (from the slum-suburbs) who has access to his children, and typically takes them on a Sunday outing to the zoo when they visit him, want to be a kid-adult who is a couch potato that never grows up?

The translation is provided by the first completely new edition of Brewer's *Dictionary of Twentieth Century Phrase and Fable* since 1870, published next Thursday and reviewed in *The Times* next week.

Where did the Prince of Wales catch his monstrous carbuncle? Why is an Archer worth £2,000? These are puzzling questions, but not beyond all conjecture. The answers or conject-

tures to most of them (often right) are contained in the dictionary.

An Archer is London street slang for £2,000, after Jeffrey Archer, pop page-turner scribe, playwright, and former deputy chairman of the Conservative party, who resigned from this last post after being accused of paying a prostitute, Monica Coughlan, bushy money of £2,000, and scooped a vast sum of money from newspapers in damages. An Archer is sometimes also called a Jeffrey.

Carbuncular has become a yahoo populist epithet to slag off architecture that is deemed ugly or offensive, ever since in 1984 the Prince of Wales described the proposed modern extension to the National Gallery as being "like a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved and elegant friend".

Brewer's has always been the source of last resort for puzzling questions that are not answered in conventional dictionaries and encyclopedias. It has

revolution. Out go most of the old literary, and biblical, and historical references. In comes the street slang of the Nineties, Brit and American. The etymologies are still dodgy and adventurous, as all folk etymologies of slang are always going to be. Brewer used to be the book you gave your elderly maiden aunt for Christmas. Not any more, it ain't.

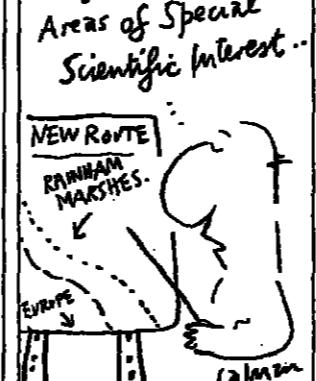
Lots of the new slang is distinctly raunchy and in terribly bad taste, from Manhattan sels' to dickless Traccys. Where the old editions of Brewer had pages of horses and dogs in myth and literature and heraldry, the latest one has horse as slang for heroin, and dog's breath as rude slang for a person who is heartily disliking.

Brewer's has always been the source of last resort for puzzling questions that are not answered in conventional dictionaries and encyclopedias. It has

also been a friend in need for hacks in a hurry with a hopeless piece, desperate for a lateral reference and esoteric knowledge to swank with.

The new edition confines itself to the words and phrases of our bustling 20th-century, and deliberately excludes those that came before. Its 8,000 entries are accordingly strong on our contemporary specialities, such as advertising slogans, sex, scandals, television jingles, and technology, from Blake Custer to Juno Space Mission; and notably weak on the roots of our culture in literature, proverbs, and catchphrases.

It will be an invaluable source for scribblers and fans of trivial pursuit knowledge. But they had better get a previous, old-fashioned edition, as well, if they want to know the quirks of language that came before this century.



Marginalia are

Areas of Special

Scientific Interest.

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I am not a political animal, says head of health service enquiry



By PETER DAVENPORT

THE man chosen to lead the government's commission of enquiry into London's hospitals insisted yesterday that politics would play no part in his deliberations.

Sir Bernard Tomlinson, aged 71, the former chairman of the Northern regional health authority and emeritus professor of pathology at Newcastle University, said: "I am not a political animal. I am solely interested in the NHS. If there had been any suggestion that I was to follow any political line in this enquiry, I simply would not have taken the job on. No such suggestion has been made. Nor would I expect it to be made."

The Labour party has already condemned the enquiry as a government admission of failing

to predict the detrimental effects of an internal market on hospital services in the city.

Yesterday Sir Bernard added: "I have no political affiliations myself, although I was campaigning for a national health service before Labour's health spokesman, Robin Cook, was born."

Sir Bernard was appointed chairman of the Northern regional health authority in 1985 by the then social services secretary, Norman Fowler. The Labour party is expected to use the decision to make him head of the commission of enquiry as evidence to support their campaign about the proliferation of Tory supporters in key health service

to be made."

Part of Sir Bernard's brief is to investigate self-governing plans by four main London teaching

hospitals: St Mary's, St Bartholomew's, St Thomas and King's College, which, it is said, are now being frozen pending the deliberations of the enquiry.

He said: "My terms of reference are to advise the secretaries of state for health and education and science on present health care provision in inner London within the framework of the reformed NHS. It is to include the balance between the acute and primary health services, the organisation and provision of undergraduate teaching, post graduate medical education and research and development."

The health department said that the enquiry would also consider the health needs of London's resident and day-time population, the emerging purchasing plans of health authorities and their likely

impact on inner London hospitals, future development in the provision of acute and primary care and the need to maintain quality patient care with high standards of medical teaching, research and development.

Sir Bernard said he believed that London had been singled out as a special case for an enquiry, when many other, provincial hospitals were also facing critical decisions over their futures, because it had the largest problems in having many hospitals and medical centres.

He will talk to a wide range of concerned organisations including health authorities, funding bodies, London University, the medical schools and the teaching hospitals.

• The chief executive of the Bradford Hospitals Trust denied reports yesterday that he had resigned his position. Dr Mark Baker, who was criticised for his handling of redundancy

announcements for 300 workers earlier this year, admitted however, that he was seeking a new job.

Dr Baker said he had not resigned nor been asked to leave his post and that he still remained as chief executive of the trust, which includes the city's Royal Infirmary and St Luke's Hospital.

He said he was discussing a new post as a consultant in public health medicine with Yorkshire regional health authority. "I have had informal discussions but no job offer has been made," he said.

Dr Baker faced detailed questioning about the business plan of the trust when he appeared before the Commons all party select committee on health earlier this year.

Diary, page 16

Hospitals ridicule Labour data on cancelled operations

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH authorities have no idea how many operations they have cancelled this year. Although all regional health authorities have to submit a plethora of information about operations carried out to the health department every three months, they do not have to collect data on how many operations they postponed.

The frank admission by several regional health authorities telephoned by *The Times* yesterday follows a survey by Harriet Harman, Opposition spokeswoman for health, which alleged that almost 300,000 operations were cancelled last year. The claim was made ten hours before William Waldegrave's speech in Blackpool.

The regions contacted were baffled as to how Ms Harman reached that conclusion based on the information they had given her. Ms Harman said

that she and her researchers had contacted all the 14 regions to get a breakdown of cancelled operations for each region.

What the regions gave her, however, was the number of "cancelled operating sessions". These sessions could cover between one and, say, eight patients depending on the complexity of the operation. Ms Harman chose the average and multiplied each cancelled session by that number.

In a note to editors attached to the press release sent out on Wednesday night, Ms Harman admits: "The figures are calculated by dividing the number of cases in scheduled operating sessions by the number of scheduled sessions held to get an average number of cases per session. This is then multiplied by the number of cancelled sessions to give a

figure for the number of cancelled operations."

The regions said Ms Harman had not taken into account the fact that if a theatre session is cancelled it does not mean that patients have their operations cancelled. Some patients might get treated on a different list by a different doctor. Others might get treated in the afternoon or the next day.

"The survey falls down because cancelled sessions do not mean cancelled operations," said a spokeswoman for North West Thames regional health authority.

"Sessions are planned months in advance because theatre time is so valuable that it has to be allocated — usually to a named consultant. However, if these are changed for any reason — because the consultant is going on holiday, or on a training course and swaps with another doctor, or if we have an emergency session — then the session is recorded as 'cancelled'."

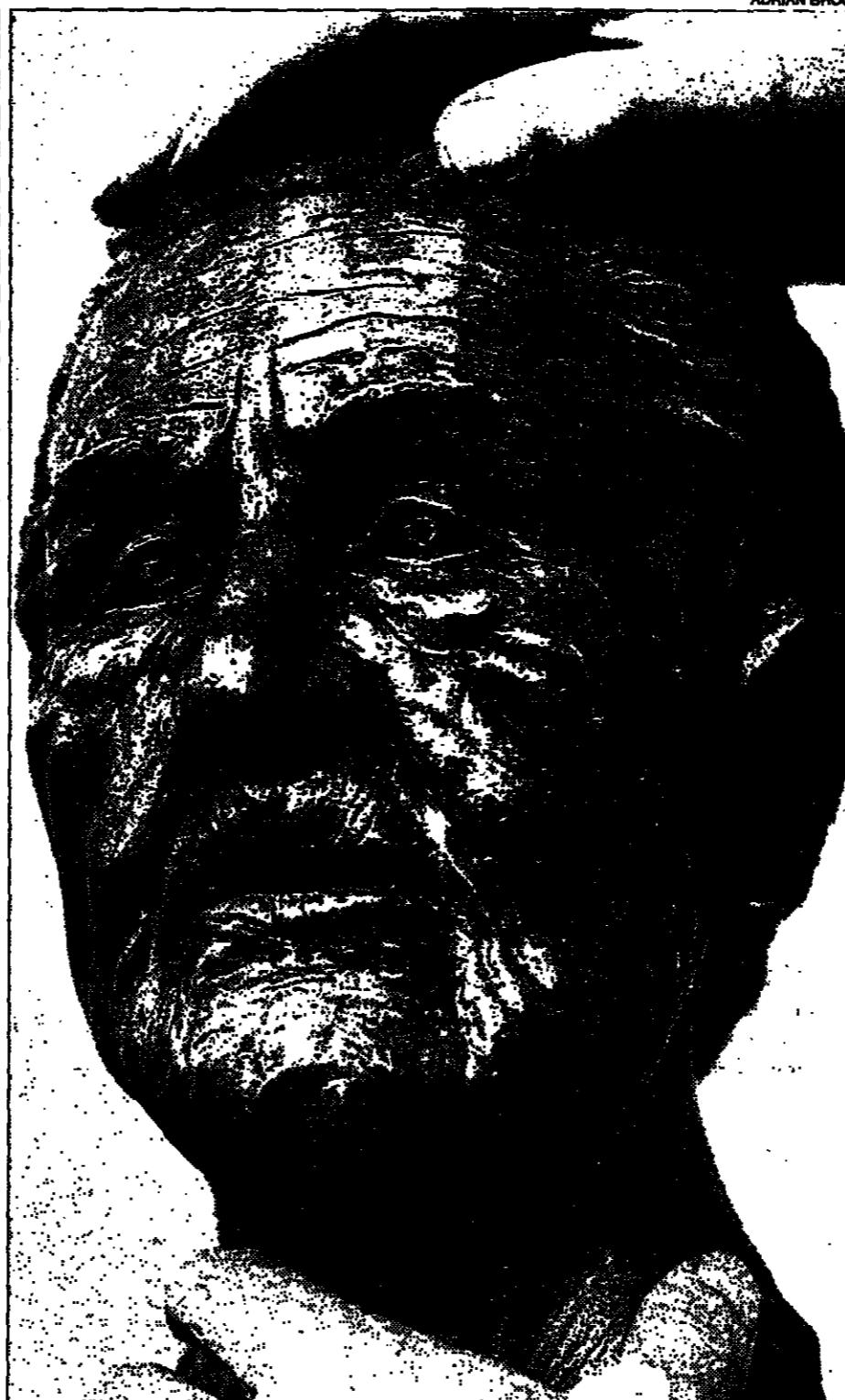
Sometimes no patients turned up or consultants had such a light list that they combined with a colleague. Again the records clerk pens in "cancelled" behind the session, even though no patients were affected.

North West Thames says that it cancelled 3,410 sessions last year out of 42,873, but has no idea how many patients had their operations deferred. "Sometimes patients will turn up and a consultant is sick, or we do not have enough staff," said the spokeswoman, but could provide no figures in support. "We have to collect hundreds of bits of information already. If we had to collect any more the NHS would have no time to treat any patients."

Mersey region was outraged that Ms Harman had accused it of cancelling 15,288 operations. The region, which prides itself on making dramatic inroads into its waiting lists said: "We cannot understand Harriet Harman's figures. The Mersey region carried out 170,000 operations last year. We did not cancel more than a handful. We are in the middle of election campaigning and politicians of all parties are going to make statements about health. But these figures are not correct, are worrying for patients and undermine staff morale."

Leading article, page 17

BUY GARDEN
FURNITURE FROM
HARRODS
WITHOUT DIGGING
DEEP INTO
YOUR POCKET.



Face lift: Scianti, a lady of some importance, is recalled 2,200 years after her death

Etruscan woman to take on new life

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE skull behind the enigmatic smile of an Etruscan sarcophagus will be revealed at the British Museum tomorrow.

Scientists have reconstructed the life of Scianti Hanunia Tlesnasa, who lived 2,200 years ago. She was a woman of some importance in the second century BC, living near the Clusium made famous by Lars Porsena, the opponent of Horatius when he kept the bridge at Rome.

Although long forgotten, Scianti's name and likeness have survived the generations, preserved on her magnificent painted sarcophagus. Long a favourite with schoolchildren, it shows her reclining in a tunic and tiara, her mantle over her head and held back by one hand as she looks at her mortal image in a mirror. The mirror itself was found when the tomb was opened.

She died at the advanced age, for the time, of around 80, and, apart from the mirror, was buried with her intimate possessions: a lidded box, flask and oval vessel were hung from nails on the walls of her tomb.

Archaeologists will detail the context of her life and death; dental and anatomical experts will discuss the vicissitudes which she underwent in her four score years, and a forensic scientist will present what the museum calls a remarkable reconstruction of her face, based on careful analysis of the muscle attachments on the bones of the skull.

For £10 the public can attend and hear the life history of an Etruscan lady.

Pilot error blamed for helicopter accident

THE danger involved in attempting to land a helicopter on a North Sea oil rig was made graphically clear yesterday in an official report into the crash of a Sikorsky S61 which struck a crane while attempting to put down on a platform off Shetland last year (Harvey Elliott writes).

Six of the 13 people on board died as the tail rotor of the helicopter smashed into the crane, tipping the aircraft into the sea.

The Civil Aviation Authority had first ruled that, because of its size, the Sikorsky could not land on any helipad which had a diameter less than 75ft. It then amended that rule in 1982 to accommodate larger helicopters, provided it was subject to a number of restrictions. The diameter of the pad on the Brent Spar field was 65ft.

The report, issued by the transport department's accident investigation branch, says that the accident happened because the pilot positioned the helicopter in an "inexplicable" way.

Papers cut jobs

News International confirmed last night that about 120 staff engaged in photo composition will be made redundant as electronic page make-up is introduced to all its titles over the next 12 months. Meanwhile, post-press distribution of newspapers at the plant would be contracted out, the company said, meaning the loss of a further 70 jobs. A spokesman said that all those affected were being interviewed and assessed individually. The company denied a claim by the electricians' union Eputu that delays in production were due to staff redundancies, and said delays were minimal.

Protestant killed

Republican gunmen shot dead a Protestant in a public house in Belfast yesterday. Harry Ward, aged 42, was murdered after being singled out as he drank in the Diamond Jubilee bar at Peters Hill in the Loyalist Shankill Road area of the city. He tried to flee but two gunmen chased him into the pub's near by off-licence and shot him at least six times at close range. The killer escaped in a waiting car.

Crash verdict

The ten people who were killed when more than 50 vehicles collided in fog on the M4 died accidentally, a coroner ruled yesterday. Charles Hoile, the West Berkshire coroner, recorded his verdict after hearing four days of evidence at Newbury. Many of the victims died when their cars ignited. Four drivers were to be prosecuted after the crash last March.

Phew, but not a scorcher

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Indian summer could be coming a little late this year. Temperatures in London reached a pleasant 20°C (68°F) yesterday, but that is by no means exceptional for the time of year. In 1921, a year which put in a scorcher finish, the same day, October 10, provided a temperature of 25.6°C (78°F) at Kensington Palace.

The 1921 records for October were broken as recently as 1985, when, on October 1, 29.5°C (85°F) was recorded at Waddon, in Croydon, south London. On the same day, other places in the South and East Anglia basked in temperatures well into the 80s Fahrenheit.

Habitually, the tabloid press hails the advent of an Indian summer, though, because the weather will be cloudy and humid, with pauses of rain on the southerly winds from France. A proper Indian summer has been celebrated in print in the first week of September.

This year, though, journalists held off until yesterday, when it was confidently predicted that the Indian summer would fall this weekend. The prediction looks likely to be wrong.

In fact, the London Weather Centre said yesterday that today was likely to be the hottest of a series of warm days ahead. However, temperatures are unlikely to rise above 23°C (73°F), and those values will be achieved only in favoured and sheltered places. Thereafter, the weather will continue warm, but with temperatures moderating to about 18°C (64.5°F).

This does not constitute an Indian summer, though, because the weather will be cloudy and humid, with pauses of rain on the southerly winds from France. A proper Indian summer has been cloudless skies and dry conditions.

The clichéd phrase, in

truth, has nothing to do with British weather at all. It is of American origin and meant fine, sunny and dry, though sometimes hazy, weather in late autumn. It was called an Indian summer because such conditions were more frequent in the Indian territories to the west than on the east coast originally inhabited by the white population.

The man at the London Weather Centre yesterday did not know that, but there is more.

A late hot spell in Britain should properly be called not an Indian summer but a St Martin's summer, in honour of the patron saint of innkeepers and reformed drunkards, St Martin of Tours. His saint's day happens to coincide with the Feast of Bacchus, hence his supposed interest in alcohol abusers, but it does not come round until November 11.

Get your thermometers out again then.

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BAKING POWDER
SOMETHING'S A
TWO GOOD FOR WORDS

Hospital criticised over mental patient who killed man

By RONALD FAUX

THE treatment of a mental patient who stabbed a man to death in the street five days after being allowed to discharge himself from Garlands hospital, Carlisle, was criticised in an enquiry report published yesterday by East Cumbria health authority.

Standards of supervision and organisation at the hospital were described as less than satisfactory. A decision by a consultant psychiatrist that there were no grounds to detain the patient, Stephen Findley, aged 22, of Brampton, Cumbria, who had been described as extremely dangerous, surprised the committee.

The case comes only a week after Mr Justice Turner called for an enquiry into why Carol Ann Barratt, aged 24, a dangerously psychotic woman who stabbed Emma Brodie, aged 11, to death with a carving knife in Doncaster, south Yorkshire, had been released two days earlier from a mental hospital where she had been held after an attack on a girl.

Mr Findley was arrested by Northumbria police on November 19 after a fracas in a Sunderland nightclub. He was found to have a loaded air

pistol and two knives. He was examined by a police surgeon and consultant psychiatrist from the Cherry Knowle hospital, Sunderland, and detained under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act. Seven days later he was transferred to Garlands hospital and admitted into an intensive care unit for patients with disturbed behaviour.

The enquiry report said that Mr Findley had appealed against his detention and a hearing of the mental health review tribunal was arranged six days after his transfer to Garlands. His consultant psychiatrist had implied in a report to the tribunal that the detention order should continue and stated that Mr Findley had shown significant improvement.

The consultant psychiatrist was not present at the tribunal hearing because it coincided with an outpatient clinic but a further report by a social worker concluded that a full assessment of Mr Findley had not been possible and that there had been evidence of aggressive behaviour. The tribunal directed that he should remain in detention.

On December 3 the consultant psychiatrist, who was not

named in the report, had concluded that Mr Findley showed no aggressive tendencies while in hospital, was responding to treatment. "He did not consider him to be a risk to others and considered that there were facilities for his treatment outside the hospital. He concluded that in his view the criteria for further detention under the Mental Health Act could not be made once the 28-day period of the Section 2 order had passed," the report said.

Two days before the order ran out nursing staff felt that Mr Findley was still not well and his parents were given advice by a nurse on how to handle him at home. On December 17 the registrar spent a long time trying to persuade him to stay in hospital and on the day of his release the consultant psychiatrist was still of the view that a further detention order could not be made even though he would have preferred Mr Findley to remain in hospital.

"There is no evidence that the nursing staff on the acute assessment ward disagreed with this view and they noted that he had not appeared a danger to others and was never aggressive on the ward. Nevertheless they considered he remained ill and needed further treatment," the report said.

Five days later Mr Findley stabbed Oliver Dickens, aged 67, of Morton Park, Carlisle, to death. He was found guilty of manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. He was committed without limit of time to Ashworth hospital, Liverpool.

The trial judge expressed anxiety that Mr Findley had not been charged after the night-club incident and the report found a conflict of evidence as to whether Northumbria police had contacted Cherry Knowle hospital. It said the police should have made more than one verbal request if they wished to keep track of his movements. "If the police had been informed at the point of his discharge from Garlands hospital this would not necessarily have resulted in a remand in custody."

The enquiry said: "In view of the written evidence, especially that from the Cherry Knowle hospital case notes, we are surprised that a firm decision that there would be no grounds to detain Mr Findley further on expiry of his detention under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act was taken at such an early stage during his period of assessment and treatment at Garlands hospital."



Pie in the sky: Bernard Lavery's pride turns to horror as his hopes for the Baytree Nursery giant vegetable contest come down to earth. The forklift truck has pulped his 500lb pumpkin yesterday on the eve of the show at Weston, Lincolnshire

House sellers give redundancy cover

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE sellers are being invited to insure their buyers' mortgage repayments for a year against redundancy.

The scheme by GA Property Services to help the recovery of a housing market depressed by fears of unemployment is being offered nationally through the chain's 450 offices. The cost of the insurance, devised by its parent company General Accident, will be around £1.30. GA said that the scheme was popular with buyer and seller.

Fear of unemployment was noted by the Halifax Building Society in its latest house price survey. Agents within the Halifax Property Services network reported that the uncertainty created by unemployment worries had offset the benefit of lower mortgage rates.

The cover under the scheme comes into effect after the first 56 days of unemployment and will pay up to £1,000 a month for 12 months. Buyers will also be offered accident and sickness cover at a discounted rate, and once initial cover ceases they can opt for full

unemployment, accident and sickness insurance to continue their cover.

Linked to the scheme is a 24-hour helpline to help people over the impact of losing their jobs and get them back to work as soon as possible.

GA's initiative, which the company says is the first to be offered nationally by an estate agent, is the latest attempt to spur the property market into activity.

Hunting Gate Homes, one of the first to introduce a redundancy protection scheme, has now launched a package that will provide mortgage cover for up to three years and an extra £100-£200 to cover other household bills for up to a year.

Help is offered to owners in arrears of facing repossession by Home Services of Sheffield. This allows householders to remain in their home, having sold it at a discounted price, but with possession deferred, for up to 18 months. The company says the extra time allows many householders to sort out their financial difficulties.

Child abuse expert call was ignored

By KERRY GILL

A SUGGESTION that an independent child psychologist should study allegations of sexual abuse by three Orkney children was not followed up, a senior social worker said yesterday.

Susan Millar, the social worker behind the taking into care of nine children last February, told the judicial enquiry that a detective superintendent from Orkney had suggested that a psychologist should be asked to assess drawings by the children, aged seven, eight and nine from a family known as W, the day after the allegations emerged. The proposal was dismissed.

The nine children were taken into care after allegations by three children from another family. The allegations claimed that the children had been sexually abused while parents stood in a circle on the Orkney island of South Ronaldsay and clapped, danced and drank wine.

Mrs Millar defended the social work department's decision not to employ a child psychologist. She said that she and Paul Lee, the social work director, believed they had enough evidence already.

They were convinced by the W family's allegations.

The enquiry was told earlier that references to puppies and sheep looking like "maggots in a field" by children in care caused social workers concern. Mrs Millar said the children from the W family referred to a number of animals. It was reported that one child had apparently tried to make a "fluffy puppy" toy to one of their foster parent's Jack Russell terriers.

The enquiry continues today.

Rodin bronzes feared lost in fire

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND AND STEWART TENDER

BRONZES by Rodin, Bourdelle and other 20th century masters were among a £5 million group of 230 works stored in the west London art warehouse devastated by a fire earlier this week. It was disclosed yesterday.

As police scientists continued investigations at the scene of the fire in Feltham, near Heathrow airport, a spokesman for James Bourdelle and Son, the art packer and transporter, confirmed that part of the Stuyvesant collection of South African art, worth £50 million, was stored in the warehouse.

The list includes important bronzes such as Rodin's life-sized *Burghers of Calais* and *Statue of Balzac with a Cloak*.

It also mentions *Washer-*

woman, by Renoir, and a large bronze head by Maillol, as well as Bourdelle's *Large torso with Fruit* and Giacometti's *Portrait of his Father and Mother*. Many had been seen in touring exhibitions to Soweto, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Last night, staff at the Museum of Modern Art confirmed that they were awaiting the delivery of 15 works by the 20th century German sculptors Ernst Barlach and Käthe Kollwitz.

"It felt like losing your children," Mr. Rupert is quoted as saying. He said that

He had been relieved to hear that valuable paintings in his care, by Matisse and Robert Delaunay, had been found safe in the strongroom.

Lord Westmorland, who was briefly chairman of Sotheby's and is still director of an American coal company and a Canadian life assurance office, is a former president of the British Horse Society. His successor, Lord Somerleyton, who has an Eton and Coldstream Guards background, is a former East Suffolk district councillor and is a farmer and landowner at Somerleyton Hall, near Lowestoft. He is an occasional rider to hounds.

Michael Clayton, editor of *Horse and Hound*, said yesterday that although the post was ceremonial, some knowledge of horsemanship was essential. "It helps to know which end the oats go in, especially as the monarch is one of the greatest enthusiasts in the country for all things equestrian."

the total value of works in the fire was 24 million rands (about £5 million). He did not know how many of the works had been stored in the strongroom, away from the worst of the fire. He said the art works, some of which were in transit between Cyprus and Hong Kong, were covered by insurance. The Stuyvesant Collection had used Bourdelle for 18 years.

Meanwhile, as the police continued to refuse entry to members of the insurance industry while they continued their arson investigations, the art market speculated about the damage sustained. "I'm still waiting to get in," said Ian Fairley, of Graham Miller Group, who includes Sotherby's among his clients.

He had been relieved to hear that valuable paintings in his care, by Matisse and Robert Delaunay, had been found safe in the strongroom.

"It is a miracle that anything was saved," he said as he recounted how staff and passers-by waded through piles of black muck formed from ash and plaster on the night of the fire to retrieve objects, assisted by the light from their car headlights.

Following the publication in *The Times* yesterday of a photograph of some salvaged works, one collector had rung from America asking whether the bronze sculpture on the right could be his Degas, Mr. Fairley said. Such was the mentality of collectors, and the insurance industry, he said, that most of what took place on Monday night would be kept secret.

At present, no clear motive for the fire is known, should it prove to be arson. There is speculation that it could have been started to conceal a burglary.

Master of the Horse resigns

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Earl of Westmorland, aged 67, has resigned his ceremonial position as Master of the Horse, the third most senior post in the Queen's Household after the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward, it was announced yesterday. He will be replaced by Lord Somerleyton, a lord in waiting to the Queen.

Lord Westmorland said from his Gloucestershire home yesterday that he was resigning his position, which he took over from the late Duke of Beaufort in 1978, because of ill-health. He has become increasingly troubled with asthma.

The enquiry was told earlier that references to puppies and sheep looking like "maggots in a field" by children in care caused social workers concern. Mrs Millar said the children from the W family referred to a number of animals. It was reported that one child had apparently tried to make a "fluffy puppy" toy to one of their foster parent's Jack Russell terriers.

The enquiry continues today.



Lord Westmorland: giving up through ill-health

is largely honorary. The Master has, doubtless to his relief, no responsibility for the Queen's racehorses, but is nominally in charge of the Royal Mews where the ceremonial horses, carriages and royal cars are kept. Day-to-day running, however, is in the care of the Crown Equerry, currently Lt-Col Seymour Gilbart-Denham, a former

Publicans take their protest to Blackpool

There were no toasts to the health of the Tory party conference from a bevy of mine hosts fearing last orders for thousands of jobs, reports Tony Dawe

THE talk was of martyrs and Galleon, in Greenwich, south-east London, said he had spent £85,000 refurbishing his pub. "Despite all my efforts in improving the place, I have been given notice to quit by January 6 next year unless I sign a new deal which could mean putting the price of a pint up to £3 if I was going to survive," he said.

Terry Daly, of the Old Grey Mare, in York, appeared to be facing the biggest rise of any on the march. He is expected to pay £30,000 a year instead of £24,000.

At the end of the march, the publicans cheered an association official who demanded that the government rethink its policies. "They showed more compassion to rotweilers earlier this year than they have done to the publicans," Roy Piddie said.

Cocktails offer bars a tonic

By DAVID YOUNG

A CURE for the financial ill health of the British pub is being offered in the shape of cocktails in a test tube, gourmet mushroom soup in hospital-style "bladder packs" and Chinese food to be nibbled at the bar as an alternative to crisps.

The ideas are on show at the Innovate '91 trade show at Wembley, north London, this week. The most spectacular and colourful, has been the launch of Testi-Coolz a range of ready-to-drink cocktails packed in plastic test tubes, and offering publicans a profit margin of well over 100 per cent. The drinks, which contain gin, vodka, whisky and rum, and often all four, are bright and fluorescent with a powerful kick.

They have been brought to Britain by Graham Worley, a Brighton bar owner, who has the UK rights. They are already a top seller in Australia.

Interest has also been shown in a range of Chinese dim-sum snacks which can be prepared behind the bar and which the makers hope will be offered at the pub to those who normally stop on the way home for a Chinese takeaway.

Among the more traditional cheeses, pork pies and frozen fish nibbles is the Clearbeer electronic beer line equipment which, its makers say, can add 2 per cent to a pump's profits.

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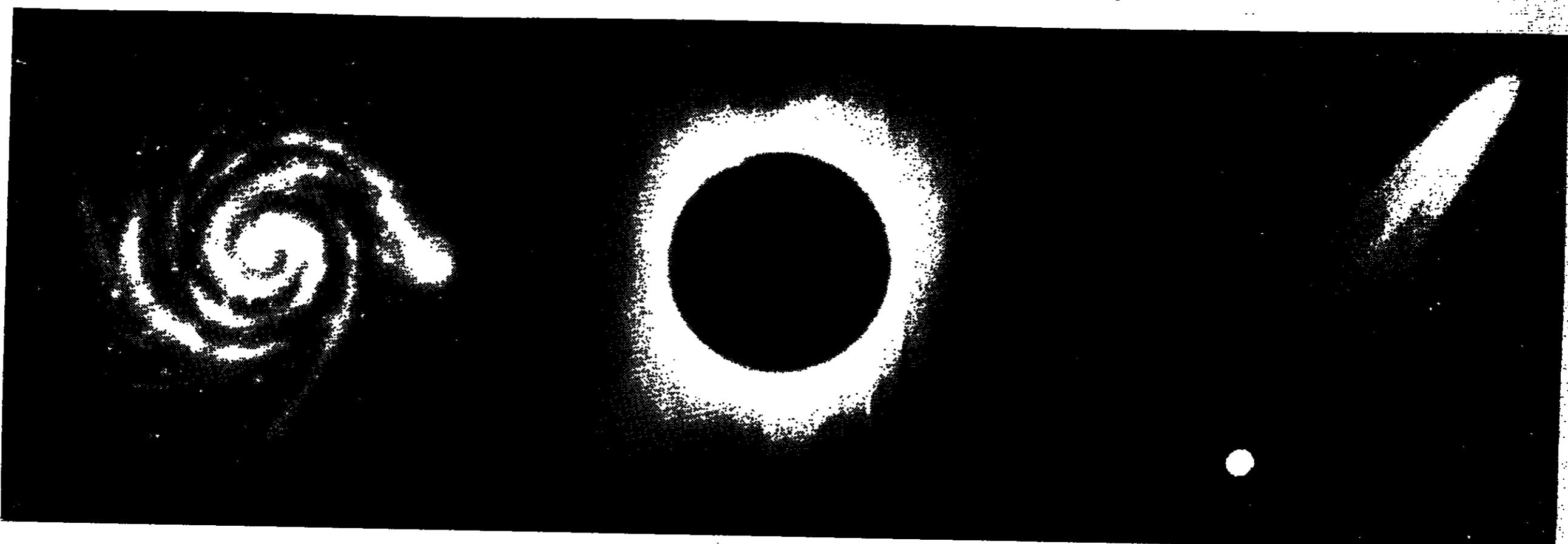
But you'll have to hurry. All good things have to come to an end, and these offers are only available until Saturday 19th October.

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UNITED AIRLINES

Lack of care blamed for suicide at Brixton jail

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HOME Office suicide prevention guidelines should be implemented immediately at Brixton prison, a coroner said yesterday after a jury concluded that lack of care had led to the hanging of an inmate at the south London jail.

The lack of care verdict was returned by a majority of ten to one by jurors at Southwark coroner's court. It was the third verdict of its kind to be delivered this year after the suicide of a prisoner at Brixton, which has one of the worst suicide records in the jail network.

Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark coroner, said that Home Office guidelines disseminated last December to reduce the risk of prisoner suicides had not been properly introduced at the jail, which dates from Victorian times. It was essential these were implemented immediately, he said.

He added: "There should be a review of safety, especially regarding suicides, and of the window grilles used. These grilles can, to our surprise, be used to hang oneself."

Sir Montague also called for

Query on town halls league

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LEAGUE tables of local authorities, promised by the government under its citizen's charter plan, should be published only with a warning about their validity, the Audit Commission will tell ministers.

Michael Heseltine, the environment minister, yesterday renewed the government's pledge to "name names" on councils' performance, but the commission, which would draw up the tables, says that the figures should not be taken as the final word.

Some senior officials believe that it may be impossible to produce league tables with the accuracy the government wants. They say that it should be fairly easy to compare the way in which councils provide specific services, but combining figures on individual services, such as street cleaning and refuse collection, to give an overall efficiency score for each council will be much more difficult.



On the road to restoration: Ben Simonds-Gooding, an auctioneer, checking over a 1951 2-litre Bristol 401 coupé before it went under the hammer at Millford Farm, near Studley, Warwickshire, yesterday. Next to it is a 1935 1.5-litre Riley Falcon saloon. They were among a lot of vintage cars that have lain covered in dust and cobwebs for almost two decades after their owner failed to fulfil his dream of restoring them to their former glory. The vehicles, including a 1930 3-

litre Bugatti Type 44 fixed head coupé, and a 1937 1.5-litre Riley Sprite open two-seater, have been described as the most significant treasure trove of unrestored classic cars to be sold for many years. The anonymous owner had stored them in outbuildings that he had specially converted to garages and workshops in the early Seventies. Specialist coach builders, mechanics and panelbeaters worked on the vehicles but a series of disasters, including a storm which destroyed a

Motoring, page 31

Channel 3 bidders to get date

By MELINDA WITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT bidders awaiting the outcome of the Channel 3 licence auction will be told today when they can expect the result.

The Independent Television Commission board meets this morning for what could be its final deliberations in the six-month contest. All 16 independent companies and their challengers will be sent further guidance by fax this afternoon about the method and timing of the final announcement. Most bidders expect the result to be declared next Wednesday.

If the commission does not announce the date of the result today, it could mean anything from a hitch in the paperwork to a decision to invoke the exceptional circumstances clause to award a licence to a lower cash bidder. If the commission decides to consider exceptional circumstances, bidders will be summoned within the next two weeks for consultations.

Leading article, page 17

Bishop may face huge costs

By RUTH GLEDFIELD, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Church Commissioners and the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, will have to wait at least a week to hear who is the victor of their High Court battle.

The bishop, who is making no comment until Lord Justice Nicholls, the vice-chancellor, gives his judgment, faces costs of many thousands of pounds if the case goes against him.

The Oxford diocese is not funding its bishop. He has obtained guarantees of more than £25,000 from members of the public who support his cause.

The bishop's case was that

the commissioners, in the investment and management of more than £2.4 billion of Church of England assets, were prepared to take ethical considerations into account only when they did not jeopardise prudent financial management.

The bishop, supported by the Ven Michael Bourke, Archdeacon of Bedfordshire, and Canon William Whitten, of the Christian Ethical Investment Group, argued that the commissioners owed their undivided loyalty to promoting Christianity through the church, even at the risk of financial loss.

Appointed to Oxford in 1987, the bishop went ahead with his action despite being urged by many friends not to do so. The commissioners already avoid companies whose main business is armaments, alcohol, gambling, newspapers or tobacco.

Close friends of the bishop deny that his action has cost him promotion in the church. One said: "There have been comments that he has put his prospects for promotion behind him. But there are a few on the bench of bishops who would say privately that it was about time the commissioners were challenged on this."

Student costs vary widely for same subjects

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THERE are wide variations in the costs of educating a university student, according to a series of comparisons by vice-chancellors and the Universities Funding Council.

Some universities are spending three times as much as others for courses in the same subjects. Physical sciences, for example, cost £12,470 per student at Cambridge, but only £3,160 at Bradford. The report shows.

University bureaucracy is just as variable. The London Business School devotes more than 13 per cent of its budget to central administration, while at Manchester University the share is only 3.6 per cent. The proportion of Oxford's budget spent on administration is shown to be twice that of Cambridge.

The statistics provide a range of performance indicators to show how universities spend their public funds and give those on campus a yardstick to assess their efficiency. The vice-chancellors argue strongly against compiling league tables because so many of the figures are not directly comparable.

Ewan Page, vice-chancellor of Reading University, who chaired the committee that produced the report, said: "Uncritical use of these statistics may seriously damage the health of the universities."

The most expensive courses are in education at City University, London. The cost for each of the five students is listed at £72,250, compared with the national average of £3,050. In reality, however, there are the eq-

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	% spent on administration	% of costs on pay	costs per student	costs per academic
1 Aston	8.5	55	757	12130
2 Bath	5.8	62	513	5910
3 Birmingham	5.9	60	628	6930
4 Bradford	6.0	72	475	6600
5 Bristol	4.3	73	516	5230
6 Brunel	5.8	71	547	8150
7 Cambridge	2.6	72	277	3340
8 City	5.6	64	589	6200
9 Durham	4.2	57	393	6000
10 East Anglia	6.0	74	463	8370
11 Exeter	6.3	63	528	8110
12 Hull	6.6	70	406	5680
13 Keele	5.7	72	449	7290
14 Kent	6.5	68	541	5900
15 Lancaster	5.4	79	401	5700
16 Leeds	5.0	65	179	5900
17 Leicester	5.5	53	553	6880
18 Liverpool	5.1	72	558	5630
19 London Bus Sch	13.1	56	3486	38240
20 London	6.4	74	980	10220
a Birbeck	8.9	65	716	8600
b Imperial	4.7	67	852	9190
c Kings	6.0	74	687	7520
d LSE	9.7	68	895	11410
e Mary & West	6.9	75	838	9190
f R. Hol & Bedford	5.8	82	490	5800
g Univ Coll	5.5	77	801	8110
22 Loughborough	4.2	65	416	4730
23 M. Bus. Sch	6.8	63	1453	17230
24 Manchester	3.6	68	401	4460
25 UMIST	4.8	74	531	6270
26 Newcastle	5.0	65	511	5610
27 Nottingham	4.6	70	499	6030
28 Oxford	5.2	61	548	6350
29 Reading	5.4	66	457	5520
30 Safford	5.4	77	471	6060
31 Sheffield	5.3	73	518	5170
32 Southampton	4.4	75	493	5720
33 Surrey	5.0	72	508	6700
34 Sussex	5.5	76	438	8020
35 Warwick	5.8	49	608	5720
36 York	4.7	63	438	5540
37 Aberystwyth	4.6	75	358	4250
38 Bangor	4.6	79	393	4500
39 UWC Cardiff	4.9	70	363	4490
40 Lampeter	7.9	62	481	6420
41 Swansea	4.1	76	300	4070
42 U. W. Col. Mad	4.3	72	970	6350
43 Aberdeen	5.7	69	549	7240
44 Dundee	4.7	75	507	5700
45 Edinburgh	4.3	69	548	5150
46 Glasgow	3.7	69	585	4520
47 Heriot-Watt	6.2	70	646	8810
48 St. Andrews	6.2	76	497	6300
49 Strathclyde	5.2	73	442	6450
50 Belfast	5.5	70	503	6470
51 Ulster	5.2	75	447	5990
	6.8	76	386	5140

Students said that the perennial problem of late payment of grants was worse this year. "We have every sympathy with the hard-pressed people administering awards but it is causing some hardship," the union said. Although most returning students and those who applied early

should have received their first grant instalments, some authorities said that they were still dealing with a late rush of applications.

University management statistics and performance indicators in the UK (Universities Statistical Record, PO Box 130, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3SE)

Paper pays damages to Daley Thompson

By RAY CLANCY

DALEY Thompson, the decathlon world record holder and former double Olympic champion, accepted undisclosed damages from *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday over an article that suggested he took performance enhancing drugs during training in the United States.

Geoffrey Bindman, for Thompson, told the High Court in London that a report in the newspaper on April 7 noted that his client did much of his training in California, where anabolic steroids were used by athletes. It went on to suggest that his achievements were of such a high order that they would have been impossible had he not been aided by "the going technology".

Mr Bindman said there was no truth whatsoever in the suggestion that Thompson had ever taken anabolic steroids or any other drugs to enhance his performance.

James Price, for the newspaper, said it regretted that the article conveyed such a meaning. Thompson's success was due to his own efforts and the paper had not intended to suggest otherwise. It agreed to pay Thompson's costs.

Holder leads women's chess

Game seven of the women's world chess championship between the Chinese challenger Xie Jun, aged 20, and the Georgian title holder, Nona Gaprindashvili, aged 30, resulted in yet another skirmish in the Ruy Lopez opening. The game was drawn after 19 moves and Gaprindashvili leads by four points to three. The match in Manila is for the best of 16 games.

In the world cup tournament in Reykjavik, the lead is shared by the former world champion, Anatoly Karpov, and his compatriot, the Russian grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk. The two Britons, Jon Speelman and Murray Chandler, London grandmasters, are in the middle of the field.

Insiders only

The city-owned public telephone service at Hull, Humberside, the only one of its kind in the country, began charging outsiders 37p plus VAT for directory enquiries yesterday, because so many people from other towns were taking advantage of its free service. Blind and partially sighted outsiders can call on a concessionary number. The service remains free to local subscribers.

Arts cash fears

The Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts has attacked a European Commission proposal to restrict tobacco sponsorship, saying it could threaten many valued arts events. The association said: "Arts organisations are quite capable of deciding whether or not it is appropriate to accept certain forms of sponsorship, without any regulation being imposed upon them."

Siege man held

A north London man who kept armed police at bay for six hours in a siege yesterday was last night being questioned by detectives. The siege, at a house in Holloway, began when detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch went to the address after receiving information about weapons. A second man, from Stoke Newington, north London, was also being questioned.

CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF NATURE

EAU DE TOILETTE POUR HOMME





Looking up: Mr Alexander among his dried flowers

Gamble grew into a farming success

IN THE autumn of 1891, James Alexander, a 54-year-old smallholder in Renfrewshire, decided to move south with his wife, Jane, their four children, 20 Ayrshire cows, one bull and an assortment of milking stools, pails and churns to take up the vacant tenancy of a 102-acre farm at Eynsford, Kent, at a rent of £150 a year.

A hundred years on, as many farmers bewail falling incomes and shrinking prospects, the third and fourth generations of the dynasty established by that Scottish migrant preside over 1,970 acres of profitable arable and grazing land, supporting 420 dairy and beef cattle and producing cereals, oilseed rape, apples, hops and dried flowers.

The flowers are the family's latest venture, introduced in the past five years, but already bringing in more money than anything else. Some 60 species of flowers and grasses are grown on 30 acres, cut by hand between June and September and dried in high-temperature kilns. The demand has exceeded all expectations.

William Alexander, aged 67, the grandson of James, has written a book chron-

A hundred years ago farmers had to take chances to survive. With subsidy cuts in the offing that is still true today, writes Michael Hornsby

close to the expanding urban market of London. If today's farmers are going to survive the subsidy cuts that are in the offing, they will have to take chances too, and be ready to seize new opportunities.

In 1908, Mr Alexander's father, also called William, took over the Eynsford farm and began a process of renting and buying more land that has continued almost to the present day. The family's holdings gradually expanded to absorb a dozen farms and now stretch across the valley of the River Darent from Farningham in the north to Shoreham in the south.

Rising demand for home-grown food during the first world war pushed up the prices of milk, cereals, cabbages and potatoes, creating enough surplus income for Mr Alexander's father to make his first land purchase in 1917. The dairy herd was increased and a milk round started. Further acquisitions of land in the Twenties and Thirties added hops and apple orchards. A caterpillar-track tractor, fuelled by a mixture of petrol and paraffin, was bought in 1937.

At this point the story of the farming Alexanders

might have come to an abrupt end. "There were

plans for siting a new airport for London at Hulberry, near Lullingstone, and that would effectively have put an end to farming in this area," Mr Alexander said. "But then the second world war intervened and the developers later switched their interest to Heathrow."

The Luftwaffe seemed only a minor threat by comparison. "We were on

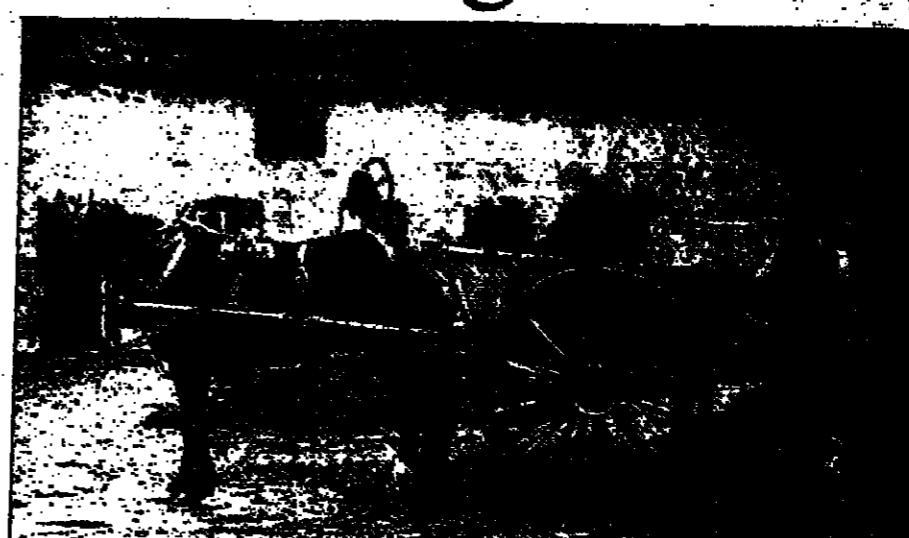
the direct bombing route to

London and there was considerable damage to buildings and animals. We slept every night for more than a year in a dug-out in the garden. At the climax of the Battle of Britain, a Dornier bomber was shot down over Castle Farm at Shoreham."

Peace came brought new challenges. "After the war, mechanisation was the watchword, like computerisation today. We bought our first combine harvester in 1948. Up until then, we

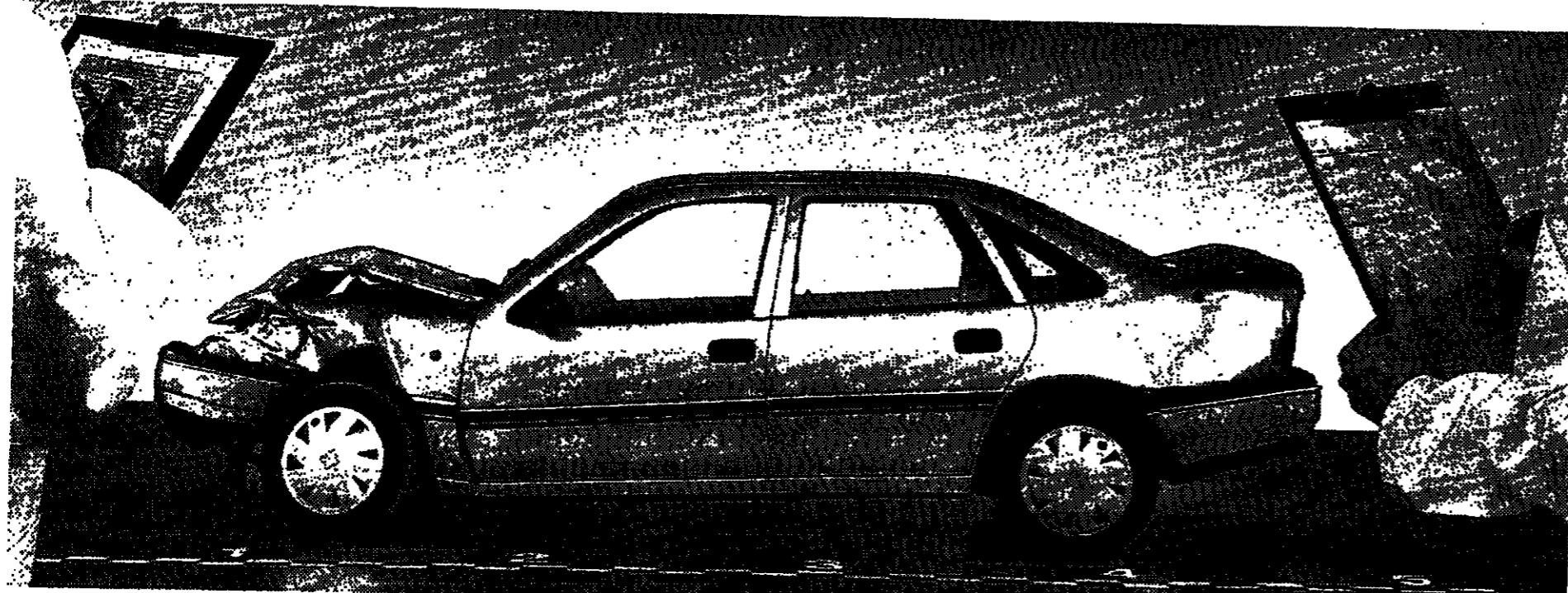
had been entirely reliant on the steam engine and thresher, which required a team of 10 people to operate."

After the death of their father in 1957, at the age of 75, Mr Alexander and his brother, James, assumed full responsibility for the enterprise. Now they are in semi-retirement and have passed the day-to-day running of the various farms to their sons, James, Robert and William.



Making a pile: a dung cart being loaded at the Alexanders' farm in the Thirties

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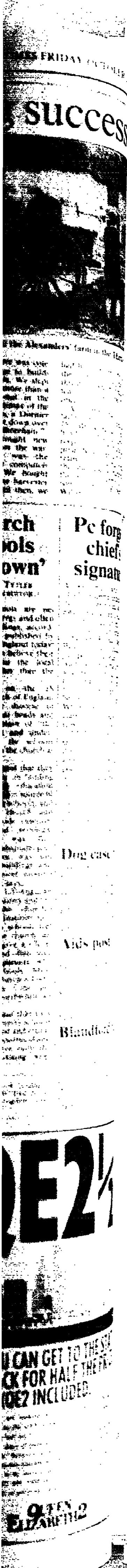
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Never underestimate the Conservative instinct for survival

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR



THE Tory survival instinct and the party's ability to exert collective self-discipline should never be underestimated. On its third day the conference in Blackpool suddenly remembered that there was an election to fight. It developed a herd instinct and a coherence that had been lacking. Suddenly the Tory team began to look solid again.

By confounding back to their bosom the old conference darling Michael Heseltine the Tory representatives showed that the emotional greeting of Margaret Thatcher the day before had been

a thank you for the glorious past, not an invitation to destabilise the party in future with enthusiastic backseat driving. If there were hard-core Thatcherites who had wanted to give Mr Heseltine the bird for launching the challenge that brought her down, they had rediscovered the discipline to sit on their hands until an election.

Conservative nerve returned visibly as William Waldegrave, Mr Heseltine and Tom King won well merited ovations. The environment secretary showed all his old zest, and some of his old disdain for the wearisome boundaries of ministerial territory, giving the conference an electric charge with a rip-roaring attack on

ment to take on the problems that dog people's everyday lives".

Not quite the heady combat promised by Mr Heseltine, or even the passion of Mr Waldegrave. But there might be more votes in it all the same.

But it was Mr Waldegrave who was the revelation. Leading on the subject which has seen Labour constantly force the government on the defensive, it would have been an achievement for him merely to come through. The health secretary was speaking too against the background of a whispering campaign suggesting it was time for someone else to be given his job.

The conference, clearly reckon-

ing that he has been the victim of unscrupulous Labour propaganda, would have given him a sympathy ovation anyway, just as Neil Kinnock the week before would have been accorded one for reading out the Samoa telephone directory because his conference wanted to hit back at the tabloid character assassins.

But sympathy ovations don't silence the whispers. Mr Waldegrave did, by winning a genuine tribute for a sharp and combative defence of Tory policies. He was full of moral outrage at the accusations being levelled against the Tory health record. There is no substitute for passion and there was nothing academic about

this speech. It could be the making of Mr Waldegrave. Whether or not he and the prime minister will be able to nail what they call the "Labour lie" alleging Tory ambitions to "privise" the health service is questionable. There remains considerable public confusion about the differences between privatisation and compulsory tendering.

The other well deserved ovation yesterday came for Tom King. The defence secretary had an empathy for the representatives who demonstrated their concern about the effect of "peace dividend" defence cuts on famous old regiments.

Forgiven Heseltine once more his party's darling

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative party yesterday forgave Michael Heseltine, less than a year after he forced the contest which ended Margaret Thatcher's 11 year reign.

He was rapturously received after a conference speech in which he strongly criticised Labour's record in local government and pledged legislation to prevent councillors who refused to pay their poll tax from voting on levels of local taxes.

In his first conference speech after six years in the political wilderness, the environment secretary gave a virtuous performance. Although many in the party are wary of Mr Heseltine because of the role he played in the

Efficiency awards promised

By ROBERT MORGAN

PUBLIC services and utilities that meet new government efficiency standards are to get a "good housekeeping" seal of approval.

Francis Maude, the Treasury minister charged with the task of making the citizen's charter work, told the conference that only organisations that come up to scratch will be able to display the chartermark. Details will be published over the next couple of months and the scheme will be launched in January, he said.

He dismissed the "tough commentators" who had scoffed at the charter when it was launched by the prime minister in July. Those commentators had asked who cared about driving test delays, or motorways unnecessarily closed off. "I tell them bluntly: Conservatives care. It is the business of government to take on the problems that dog people's everyday lives."

John Major's charter, he said, was the most comprehensive programme ever launched to improve public services. "No corner of the public service will remain untouched."

Problems could not be solved by merely writing a cheque. It was value for money that was the key. Neil Kinnock, he said, talked about priorities. He had less to say about where the money would come from.

"He seems to think", Mr Maude said, "that if you put a note under your pillow last night, close your eyes and wish hard, then when you wake up in the morning you will find £35 million. I am afraid I have some bad news for you Neil, the tooth fairy does not exist."

Tough standards are to be set for the public services, he told representatives. Everyone using public services would know what to expect and everyone working in them would know what they were expected to deliver.

"I want to say a final farewell to the old attitude, the men from the ministry attitude, that treats the customer as an inconvenient afterthought. There is no place for grudging, surly service, for petty officialdom, in John Major's Britain of the Nineties."

Speech 'failed to address problems'

THE health secretary's speech came under attack from health service organisations and the Labour party for failing to address the problem of underfunding in the NHS.

The Royal College of Nursing welcomed Mr Waldegrave's commitment to nurse prescribing and his endorsement of the principle of equal access to free health care. However Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said nurses were concerned about the underfunding of the service "and the secretary of state had nothing to say about that".

The British Medical Association said that it regretted that the government had spent

f300 million introducing the reforms "without assessing whether the changes would work". Calling for a national enquiry into the health service, John Chawner, chairman of the BMA consultants' committee, said the London commission that Mr Waldegrave had announced was a "hail admission that the market system is not an overall solution to the problem".

Hector MacKenzie, general secretary of the health service union, Cosh, dismissed Mr Waldegrave's speech as "strong on political smears and weak on prescriptions".

With his commitment to the reforms being questioned

Young of Graffham, one of Mr Lilley's predecessors, remarked ruefully: "When Margaret was in charge, industrial strategy was a banned phrase".

□ The feud simmers on ...

and on. Margaret Thatcher's ecstatic welcome on Wednesday was not unanimous.

Edward Heath is angry that his old rival

made two platform appearances.

He says this broke an

agreement that she would

appear in the morning and

leave the way clear for him

to take the stage in the

afternoon.

□ Conference fatigue

claimed a notable scalp

yesterday when Jerry Hayes, the ebullient Tory MP for Harlow, lost his way

during the health debate.

Wendy Mitchell, who was

supervising the session, be-

came "Mr Madam Chair-

man", then, losing his way completely as he sought to list Labour's past iniquities, he was reduced to spluttering about nameless "dreadful things" visited on the people. But at least he was man enough to own up to the source of his confusion - the after-effects of a "very bad night".

□ Although Michael Heseltine seems to have re-

established himself as the

darling of the conference,

his ovation yesterday failed

to match that of William Waldegrave. The health sec-

retary's speech earned him

three minutes of applause,

but Mr Heseltine got 45

seconds less. The remainder

of the league table reads:

Peter Lilley, 1 minute 36

seconds; Tom King, 1

minute 15 seconds; Tony

Newton, 48 seconds; Fran-

cis Maude, 43 seconds.

THE government is determined to see that Community competitors observe the rules of the single market to be introduced at the end of next year, so that British firms could take up the "tremendous opportunities" it offered

to the market.

An official said that the

prohibition on voting on

financial measures would

apply only to those councillors

who refused to pay the new

council tax, which is due to be

replaced by the community charge on April 1, 1993. The status of

councillors who still owed poll

tax by that date had yet to be

resolved, officials said last

night. Government lawyers

believe it may be impossible

to enforce the ban on those in

areas because the measure

might amount to retrospective

legislation.

Steve French, a Lambeth

councillor who was suspended

from the Labour party for

refusing to pay the poll tax,

said that he thought most

councillors who had refused to

pay the poll tax

deserve a fair deal."

Mr French said he understood

the passionate and deeply

sincere feeling that had been

voiced. It was in the infantry

"with all the tradition and

loyalty to the regiments" that

feeling was strongest.

Wearing his old regimental

tie, Mr King declared: "Don't

think that I don't understand.

I want to keep the benefits of

the loyalty, spirit and enthusiasm

of the regimental system that

has served us so well.

"Some people have criti-

cised me for that. They have

said that its great advantage is

its resistance to change. In

spite of the obvious unhappi-

ness when some regiments

have to amalgamate, I want to

prove the critics wrong and

that the system is worth keep-

ing and capable of change."

Tax revolt action likely to fall flat

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine's attempt to disfranchise councillors who refuse to pay their local tax bills may fall flat because most poll tax rebels intend to pay the council tax.

It is also doubtful if the announcement represents an important change in the law, because at least one council will come next week when he unveils the second wave of health service trust hospitals and later in the month he will publish a patient's charter

on the community charge pending the outcome of the enquiry. The second stage will come next week when he unveils the second wave of health service trust hospitals and later in the month he will publish a patient's charter

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survival

Right-wingers rock Israeli coalition

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

SERIOUS cracks began to emerge in the Israeli coalition government yesterday as right-wing members vowed to continue disruptive action, in an effort to undermine Israel's participation in the United States peace initiative.

The campaign centred on a ramshackle Arab building in the east Jerusalem Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan, beside the tombs of King David and King Solomon. Four members of the Knesset prepared to spend their second night there with Jewish settlers, in a confrontation with the police that is calculated to embarrass Israeli leaders during the visit to Jerusalem by



Aquino's vision

Manila — President Aquino (above) yesterday signed a law loosening control by the central government in Manila over the Philippines' 75 provinces which include more than 7,000 islands.

"It establishes the vision of a Filipino nation of self-reliant communities," she said. The law would give local governments up to 40 per cent of tax revenues to deliver basic local services. (Reuters)

Newton verdict

Oakland, California — Tyrone Robinson, aged 27, was convicted here of murdering Huey Newton, the co-founder of Black Panthers, the radical black liberation group, to impress gang members and win a drug-dealing franchise. Robinson admitted shooting Newton in 1989 but claimed Newton had fired first. (AP)

\$181m for UN

New York — The United States gave the United Nations a cheque for \$181 million (£106 million). It owes half a billion dollars in dues to the UN's budget after falling behind in payments during the Reagan presidency in protest against some UN activities and what was described as administrative waste. (Reuters)

Lion attack

Manchester, New Hampshire — An American model who was posing with a lion when it suddenly took her head in its jaws. Shannon Audley, aged 23, suffered cuts to her head and back. She was said later to be doing well after medical treatment. (AP)

Surrendered troops fear return to Iraq

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SEVERAL thousand Iraqi troops surrendered to Kurdish guerrillas during fighting around the northern Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah this week and many say they fear retribution at President Saddam Hussein's hands if they go home.

Scores of Iraqi prisoners of war being held by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), a big Kurdish guerrilla group, expressed strong desire to return to their families. But most were uneasy about the fate which could await them because they surrendered. "You must tell the whole world about us," said one man. "Otherwise we may disappear when we go back."

The Iraqis, all captured in Monday's fighting, were being held at PUK headquarters in Sulaymaniyah. They were due to be turned over to the International Committee of the Red Cross under the terms of the Geneva convention on repatriation of PoWs.

The prisoners say they are subject to a fine and three years in jail if they return without their weapons. The Iraqi troops being held at PUK headquarters, who totalled more than 150, said they were being well treated.

Recent engagements between Iraqi troops and Kurdish guerrillas have produced large numbers of Iraqi prisoners, including up to 4,000 captured in the past week. The

Turkish territory at present.

New witnesses to testify against Judge Thomas

By PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO witnesses are expected to testify that Anita Hill confided allegations of sexual harassment when the Senate judiciary committee opens new hearings on the Supreme Court nomination of Clarence Thomas.

President Bush's nomination of Judge Thomas to replace the liberal Thurgood Marshall, has been threatened by revelations of Professor Hill's allegations. Both Judge Thomas and Professor Hill, of Oklahoma university, will testify before the committee when it meets today to assess the allegations that forced a week's delay in the Senate confirmation vote.

"Breaking away from America will be like divorcing your wife," he explained. "Although it will be unpleasant — America provides 6 per cent of our gross national product — we cannot live with somebody who keeps attacking us in the Senate confirmation vote."

His comments were directed at the Bush administration's handling of the proposed peace conference scheduled for later this month, which Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has said he will attend. Right-wingers in his government claimed, however, that this will become a kangaroo court, where the Jewish state will be forced to give up the territories it occupied in 1967 during the six-day war.

"The nearer we approach Baker's visit next week and the negotiations planned for the end of this month, the more extremists on both the Israeli and Arab sides will try to derail the process," a senior Israeli government source predicted yesterday, as he commented on the settlement controversy.

Although leading ministers in favour of the peace conference such as David Levy, the foreign minister, and Dan Meridor, the justice minister, have spoken out against the actions of the right-wingers, and in particular the timing of the Silwan operation, it has still become a rallying point for Ariel Sharon, the maverick housing minister. Mr Sharon announced on Wednesday night that he planned to go one step further and challenge Mr Shamir for the leadership.

"I will run," Mr Sharon vowed in a television interview. "If I want something I achieve it." Referring to the peace conference, he added: "Israel has not presented any demands. It has in principle accepted pre-conditions. We have surrendered in principle all our positions ... this scares me."

Although the former defence minister, his supporters in the ruling Likud party and the three right-wing coalition parties represent only a handful of seats in the government, his warning of a challenge to the leadership is expected to make Mr Shamir's approach to the American-sponsored peace conference even more cautious than it has already been.

"I will obviously run, based on the fact that I can carry out the correct policy to achieve peace — because I believe we can arrive at peace — carry out a correct defence policy to return security to the life of Jews in Israel and carry out a correct immigration policy," Mr Sharon said.

sexually harassed when she worked with Judge Thomas.

In televised hearings whose subject matter has knocked Washington politics sideways over the past remarkable week, Judge Thomas will have to reply to allegations from Professor Hill, his former personal assistant, that he discussed pornographic films with her after she had refused his invitations and advances. Judge Thomas has already denied the charges. Patrick Leahy, a member of the judiciary committee, promised "tough and probing" questions of the charges to see "who is telling the truth".

Following detailed negotiations between Judge Thomas's supporters and opponents in the Senate, the nominee will appear at the end of the hearing after testimony has already been heard by Professor Hill, and those who will allegedly corroborate her charges. Judge Thomas is

said to be planning to say as little as possible about the alleged events. His advisers have released telephone records which purport to show that Professor Hill maintained cordial relations with her former boss long after the time that he is supposed to have put sexual pressure on her.

The White House was yesterday attempting to stay out of the furor in which the character of Judge Thomas, the hidden extent of sexual harassment and the method of confirming presidential appointments have become confused.

Mr Bush, who saw Judge Thomas privately yesterday, said nothing more yesterday. Although the administration is still putting on a confident face about its nominee, new names are being prepared in case the nomination fails. "The president is prepared to let the system work," a spokesman said.

Two other witnesses who support Professor Hill were also expected to testify, according to sources. One is a former Yale Law School classmate who is now a state judge. The other is Joel Paul, an American university law professor who has said that Professor Hill told him during a job interview that she had been



Days of judgment: Judge Thomas outside his home in Alexandria, Virginia, yesterday

Sexual judgment, page 16

Biosphere pioneer injured

Oracle, Arizona — One of eight people belonging to the Biosphere experiment in Arizona had the tip of her finger cut off in an accident, and may have to be taken out of the sealed environment, a project official said yesterday.

Jane Poynter, 28, who comes from Surrey and is the Biosphere's farm manager, was injured while operating a rice-hulling machine on Wednesday. The finger was sewn back on by the crew's doctor, Dr Roy Walford, but as the machine had cut through to the bone, she may have to be taken out temporarily for specialist surgery. A decision on whether to remove her will be made in the next two or three days.

The crew of eight was sealed into the three-acre glass-enclosed site on September 26. Their intention is to stay inside, without any contact with the outside world for two years. If Ms Poynter were taken out through the airlocks for surgery, it would not ruin the experiment to see if humans can run a self-sustaining environment, said the official. Dr Walford will make a decision about the need for surgery during the next few days. (AP)

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Peace conference tries to shore up truce

From GEORGE BROCK IN THE HAGUE AND ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

THE European Community's fragile Yugoslav peace conference yesterday brought the president of Croatia face to face with the Serbian general whose pilots tried to kill him in last Monday's bombing of Zagreb's presidential offices.

Franjo Tuđman met General Veljko Kadijević and Slobodan Milošević, the Serbian president in The Hague while the EC tried to shore up a crumbling ceasefire in Croatia itself. EC monitors earlier threatened to pull out completely if there was any further delay in implementing it.

As the three men met in The Hague, under the chairmanship of Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, the EC's peace monitors in Croatia told the federal army and Croatian forces to begin withdrawing from their respective positions in accordance with the agreement reached last Tuesday.

Two convoys of aid were due to arrive in the two heaviest areas of fighting on the Serbo-Croat border yesterday, in a vital test of the ceasefire. But even before their departure reports were coming in of fresh fighting in several areas of Croatia indicating that EC monitors, hoping to visit battlefields, could be heading straight into crossfire. A team of 15 lorries with medical supplies and food, left Zagreb early yesterday on a secret route to the besieged city of Osijek, which is reportedly being used as a dispatch point. Nine more lorries were standing by for an

escort of EC monitors before heading for the nearby town of Vukovar.

Dutch and EC officials remain gloomy about the prospects for peace and contingency planning for both sanctions and armed intervention continued. None of the eight ceasefire agreements have yet solved the problem of which forces are to withdraw to where. By yesterday morning, Serbian army commanders were making clear

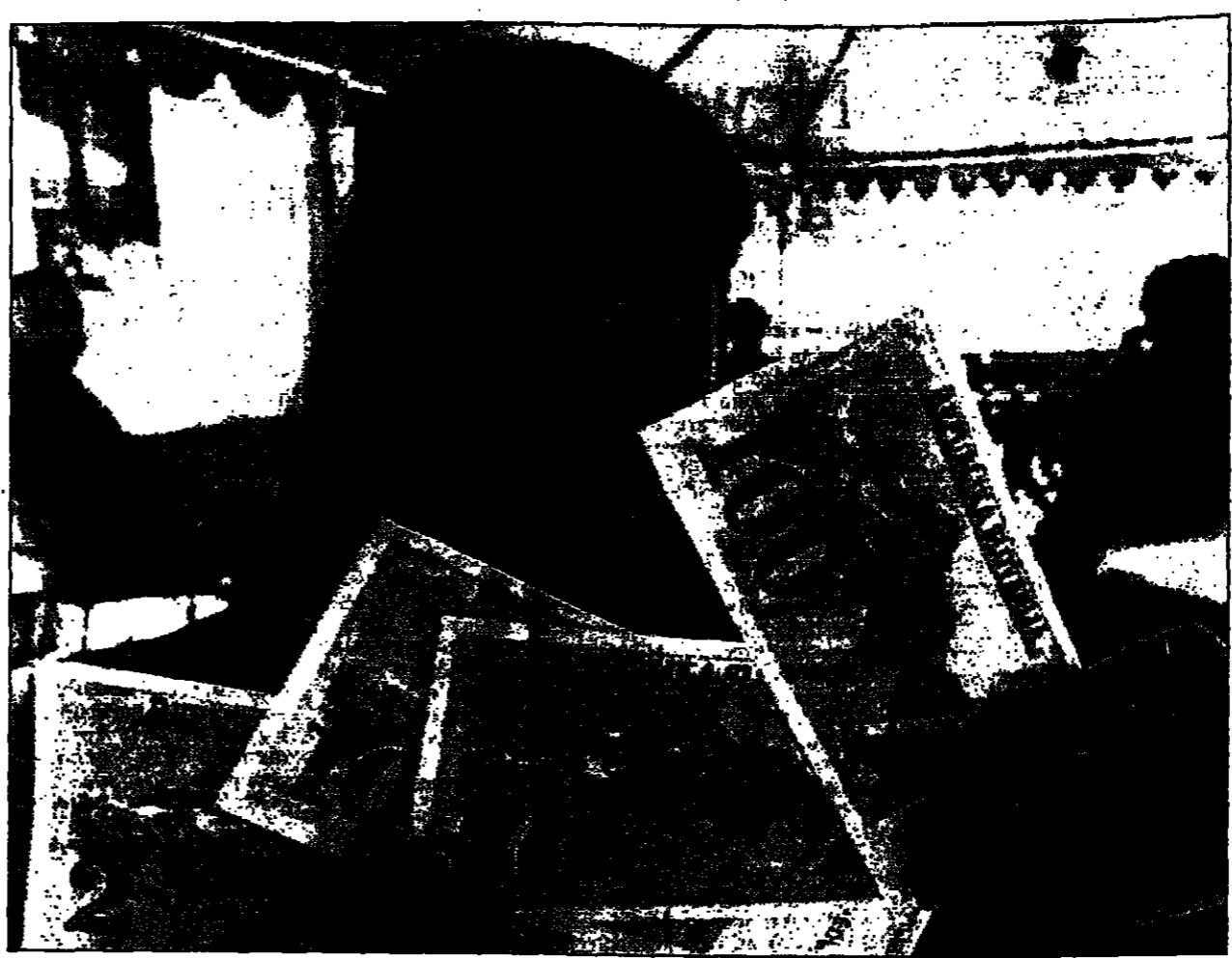
that they did not interpret any agreements as requiring them to leave barracks located in parts of Croatia which have a Serbian majority. No lasting settlement is thought likely if Serbian troops remain within the borders of Croatia.

If the EC does despair of making any true stick, economic sanctions remain more likely than armed intervention – although there is little enthusiasm for either course of action. Although the agreed conditions for dispatching a military force were never close to being met, earlier pressure for the EC to sound as if it might be close to sending soldiers has slackened. Attention has now

turned towards the possibilities of mediation or peacekeeping by the United Nations. Cyrus Vance, acting as the special representative of Javier Pérez de Cuello, the UN secretary-general, is visiting Yugoslavia over the weekend and is expected to attend a session of the EC peace conference on Monday.

One option discussed by senior officials of the 12 EC foreign ministries on Wednesday is for the EC to withdraw its recognition of Yugoslavia. This would be tantamount to endorsing the independence declarations of Slovenia and Croatia but might avoid internal difficulties within the EC. Spain, casting a worried eye on its Basque separatists, has refused recognition so far. Britain, wary of precedents which might be applied to Northern Ireland, has expressed no support for recognition.

Diplomatic sanctions directed against Serbia are more likely than economic ones. The more detailed the discussions of possible economic measures, the larger the practical problems appear to be. The EC can abrogate its trade agreement with the federal government, but that sanction – like an oil embargo – will hit the innocent as well. An oil embargo, EC experts have concluded, will be almost impossible to enforce and is as likely to leave people without heat and light as it is to starve tanks of fuel.



Crisp currency: a woman admiring new Slovene bank notes issued yesterday

Serbian split jeopardises ceasefire

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

VIOLATIONS of the eight ceasefire agreement in Yugoslavia yesterday were inevitable because the Serbian leadership remains split over its military strategy. While the more cavalier might contemplate a full-scale attack to crush Croatia, the more realistic, including Slobodan Milošević, the Serbian president,

want to seize some vital economic assets in the republic before letting Croatia withdraw from the federation.

Since October 1, the Yugoslav national army, now relying almost exclusively on Serbian conscripts, has made several significant advances. Yet it has failed to take any of

the strategic objectives such as the Croatian towns in which its garrisons are blockaded. All it has achieved is consolidation of its control over the Serbian ethnic enclaves in Croatia.

The original justification for sending federal troops to Croatia was to separate the Croats who had declared independence and the Serbian minority which felt vulnerable to extreme Croatian nationalism. This internal security role, however, merely became an excuse for switching to a new military strategy, which was to hold on to those areas of Croatia controlled by Serbian guerrillas. But even that

strategy was overtaken. As the federal forces' goal, therefore, seems to be limited, the principal objectives being to deny the Croats the ability to recover lost territory, to secure strategic economic assets, such as the oil pipeline and petrochemical plants, and to secure a negotiating advantage in the event of a real ceasefire agreement.

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Dutch to veto rise in MEPs for Bonn

From TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

THE Dutch government will veto any move by Germany to increase its number of MEPs at the European parliament in Strasbourg.

Wednesday's overwhelming European parliament vote in favour of increasing the German contingent from 81 to 99 has taken most member states by surprise. "I had no idea they were going to do this and I'm sure we would veto it," a Dutch source said. Such an increase would have to be written into the Treaty of Rome and therefore be included in the already crammed agenda for the Maastricht summit in December.

Diplomatic sources in Brussels say the Germans are piqued that no other member state has suggested that unified Germany be given more seats in the parliament. It would be embarrassing for the German government to raise the matter directly because both Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, dropped any claims for increased representation in return for the parliament's support for unification.

The foreign ministry in Bonn was yesterday anxious to play down the issue.

"There is no formal recognition from the government of this, and really it is an initiative from the parliamentarians," a spokesman said. A British spokesman in Brussels said that the government would also have doubts about an increased number of German MEPs. "It was our understanding that there would be no change in the constitutional balance."

However, with Germany wanting increased powers for the European parliament in return for a deal on European monetary union, Bonn should be able to bargain if it wishes.

PARIS NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

Prized words that few read

At the last count, about 1,500 literary prizes were on offer in France, a selection greatly outnumbering the variety of domestic cheeses available. The Prix Goncourt, awarded every November, remains undoubtedly the most coveted, despite the measly 50 francs (£5) it pays to winners. By most reckonings, the award can boost sales by anything from 50,000 to 500,000 copies, which helps to explain why publishers are said to urge fancied authors to turn down other awards for fear of compromising their chance of a Goncourt.

Fair enough, even if the "talent, boldness and originality" that Edmond de Goncourt sought to encourage among young writers some 90 years ago is not always evident in the jury's selection.

If there is a persistent whiff of favouritism in the overwhelming choice of winners from France's big three publishers – Gallimard, Seuil and Grasset –

what else can be expected when most of the permanent judges are themselves published by one or other of those houses? The industry needs all the help going, because the French are buying fewer and fewer books. Sales of comics have never been healthier.

Êtes-vous tu, Brutus?
GÉD GÉD

When Pierre Marion was appointed head of the French counter-espionage service, the minister who got him the job, a close friend for many years, told him: "From now on, I wish you to call me vous." There is a

lesson there somewhere, though foreigners struggling with the infinite subtleties of the correct form of address in France may not find it much help. Even in these more relaxed times, the nuances of when and where to tu and vous can be as baffling as ever, seemingly governed by codes and conventions which the French alone understand.

A linguistic sleuth for Newsweek magazine concluded recently that the most rigid barriers are disappearing steadily, especially among the young. In jobs like journalism, public relations and marketing, *tu* is apparently well-established, but the familiar is still resisted in the more starchy levels of the professions and government service. President Mitterrand allows few people to call him *tu* and then never in public. When M Marion first sought to raise the subject of espionage with M Mitterrand, he observed frostily: "Let us move to the next subject."



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Shevardnadze predicts rise of Russia in new union

Edward Shevardnadze tells Charles Bremner in Moscow that steps must be taken quickly to bring about the economic recovery of the country if chaos is to be avoided

Even the mood-swing that has afflicted Russia, with the ephoria after the attempted coup giving way to despair at intimations of disaster, it seems strange to find an authoritative voice predicting the eventual, albeit difficult, birth of a new union from the rubble of the old.

When the voice is that of Edward Shevardnadze, the man who last December averted the world to the danger of a putsch with his abrupt resignation as foreign minister, there are reasons for paying attention.

Mr Shevardnadze cuts a calm figure as he walks into the drawing room in the old mansion on Yelizarova Street, which serves as the headquarters for the Foreign Political Association, the think-tank he has founded.

His demeanour is sombre, but the old twinkle still flashes through as he scans the problems, explaining his reasons for hope. In his estimation now over, he is proving these analytical skills again to President Gorbachev as a member of his presidential council and head of the team settling Lithuania's divorce from the former Soviet Union.

Tide is critical, says Mr Shevardnadze, if the nation is to avoid another anti-democratic grab for power. "Already, we are almost living in anarchy. If, in forthcoming days, the questions over the economic

union are not resolved then we are truly heading for chaos," he says. Since the attempted coup, "practically nothing has been done for the real recovery of the economy... If we are going to move at that speed, the people will punish us."

The feeling of drift has been fuelled by the paralysis over the past three weeks of Russia, the giant around whom any future union will inevitably cluster. While Boris Yeltsin, the president, has rested near the Black Sea for two weeks, his lieutenants have squabbled over the spoils from the collapsing empire. Meanwhile, in the Kremlin, Mr Gorbachev has seemed ever more powerless as the republics have engaged in their battle of wills.

Mr Shevardnadze's talk of a popular backlash is shared among democrats. He believes that the "fundamentalists" could succeed in mobilising discontent if living conditions deteriorate further. The next plotters could prove less incompetent. A handful of incidents are already being read as harbingers of wider unrest. On Tuesday, Russian television said a riot over cancelled flights at a Moscow airport and disturbances over food shortages in Perm, suggested that frustration was boiling up and "catalysis" may not be far off. Aid from the West could

prove vital to the country's survival intact, says Mr Shevardnadze.

Although the squabbling in the Russian leadership seems to be a perilous diversion from the business of heading off chaos, Mr Shevardnadze sees it as no more than useful rivalry among a group inexperienced in democracy. "They are all one team. It's their argument. If you take them separately they all support President Yeltsin." Russia, he is sure, will emerge to lead a new, loose formation of republics in spite of the present conflicts. The republics would realise that their interests lay in devising a common economic and political space because of shared histories, their shared cultures and spirit, as he puts it. The alternatives could lead to war if there are disputes over territory, he says.

"Without question, Russia will be the most important foundation of the democratic process."

This thinking draws scant sympathy from non-Russians, many of whom see the break-up as a chance to cast off a yoke that was usurped long before it was communist. In the Ukraine, which is opposed to any political union, it is impossible for a politician to be sufficiently anti-Russian. As the former Georgian party boss and police chief who never showed his demo-



Contemplating the future: although Edward Shevardnadze says that the birth of a new union will be difficult, he believes that there is still room for optimism

cratic streak until he joined Mr Gorbachev, Mr Shevardnadze is viewed with suspicion. In his native Georgia, Mr Shevardnadze's views have earned the fury of President Gamsakhurdia and his nationalist leadership, who have no intention of joining a union with the old colonial power.

The way things look now, the new Union of Free Sovereign Republics, as Mr

Gorbachev's draft treaty calls it, will be unlikely to encompass more than Russia, the Central Asian republics, Azerbaijan and Belorussia. Whoever belongs to it, Mr Shevardnadze says, will have a central authority headed by a president who will act as co-ordinator and organiser. "The president will not wield as much executive power as the president of the United States, or

even France, but it will be symbolic." On the world stage, the new commonwealth would fill the shoes of the old union, he says.

From the outside, Mr Gorbachev would seem the ideal man but other names are coming to the fore. One suggestion is that Mr Yeltsin should be head of a Russian-dominated union, with Anatoli Sobchak, the powerful St Petersburg mayor, as the

new Russian leader. But if the centre is to be a looser co-ordinating force, then Mr Shevardnadze, with his non-Russian background, is an obvious candidate. For the moment, his political ambitions are focused on the Movement for Democratic Reform, which includes Gavril Popov, the Moscow mayor, Mr Sobchak and Aleksandr Yakovlev, Mr Gorbachev's former adviser. It is too early to say whether the movement will grow into a party. Mr Shevardnadze says, but its ambitions are as an inter-union force.

Mr Shevardnadze, who is 63, still has high regard for Mr Gorbachev. "I know I criticised him in the past, but he is the originator of perestroika and I feel that we must all help and support him."

He still believes that Mr Gorbachev's failure to act against the rising ambitions of the hardliners had set the scene for the attempted coup. Instead of taking a back seat during the suppression in the Baltics earlier this year, Mr Gorbachev should have acted. "If he sacked the defence minister when that tiny aeroplane, like a little toy, landed in Red Square, then he should all the more have fired Yazov [Dmitri Yazov, the defence minister and coup plotter] immediately" over the Baltics, he says.

But, says Mr Shevardnadze before getting up to go, political differences do not end a friendship at their ages.

Spy kept facts from the KGB

Munich — Markus Wolf, the former East German spy master whose communist agents riddled West Germany, said yesterday that his agency never told the KGB all that it discovered.

In his first public appearance in United Germany since returning from exile in Moscow, Herr Wolf, aged 68, was testifying in the trial of four of his former agents charged with espionage. "There was never any order to pass information on to the Soviet or other [Eastern bloc] intelligence services," he told Bavaria's regional high court.

Herr Wolf, who faces espionage charges in Germany for spying on Bonn, was surrounded by television cameras and photographers as he entered the court. (Reuters)

Down to earth

Moscow — An Austrian and a Kazakh cosmonaut have returned after an eight-day trip to Mir, the orbiting Soviet space station. Franz Viehboeck and Toktar Aubakirov landed in Kazakhstan in a Soyuz spacecraft with Anatoli Artsebarsky, who was returning from a five-month stay on Mir. (Reuters)

British regrets

Bonn — Britain's ambassador in Bonn, has written to two German mayors upset by a proposed statue to Sir Arthur Harris, responsible for the bombing of Germany during the second world war. "The government and people of the United Kingdom deeply regret the suffering caused on both sides," he said. (Reuters)

Immigrant action

Germany plans to hold all refugees in camps

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

All refugees entering Germany will be held in camps for a maximum of six weeks, under plans agreed by the four main political parties yesterday. After that they will be expelled unless they can prove their claim for political asylum.

Against the background of continuing violent attacks on hosts for foreigners, the parties decided to introduce tougher, faster measures for vetting asylum seekers, who are arriving at the rate of about 1,000 a day.

While party leaders were appraising the plans, the Bun-

destag was debating and condemning attacks on foreigners while supporting the continuing need to offer asylum to any in danger of persecution. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said in a speech in Berlin yesterday evening that political extremism had always brought bad luck to the German people and that the state and society must not weaken in the face of violence.

The plans agreed yesterday are meant to speed up the process of weeding out the economic refugees taking advantage of Germany's open-door asylum policy. At

present only about one in 20 of those arriving is ultimately found to have genuine grounds for claiming asylum, but many of the remainder manage to stay for months and even years while they fight their case through the various legal processes.

Both the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and the Free Democrats (FDP), junior members of the government coalition, have blocked any amendment to the constitution which would restrict the right to claim asylum.

With the help of 500 extra staff and a centralised computer, the new plan is intended to process every application within a fortnight, giving all those rejected three weeks to appeal, and then just one week in which to leave before being expelled.

To make this streamlined procedure possible, all refugees would be sent to one of 90 camps around the country, many of them in converted army barracks, each with a

Gang attacks Meissen hostel

From IAN MURRAY IN MEISSEN

THE mob arrived at the refugee hostel after sunset. In spite of the wave of attacks on homes of foreigners all over Germany, the raiders achieved complete surprise. There was no police guard, no official of duty and no warning.

The refugees at the hostel in Meissen thought they were safe. Unemployment and boredom, the recruiting grounds for the far right, are less of a problem here than elsewhere. The hostel, in converted factory offices up a tiny track along the Triebisch valley, seemed to be a haven. Unlike other towns in the east, where neo-Nazi gangs have struck, Meissen has a beautiful and lively, if dirty, city centre.

But last week, on the eve of the first anniversary of German unity, the mob gathered. They were all young, many of them obviously still at school, most of them masked, all of them chanting slurs such as, "Foreigners out" and "Germany for the Germans". The refugees, from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Albania, Romania and elsewhere, quickly shut the hostel doors, but a stone smashed a window and the mob burst in.

For nearly an hour about 60 young people ran riot. Eventually ten policemen arrived and had to call for reinforcements. Meissen, like all cities in the east, is short of officers. Peter Trentzsch, the German who manages the home, is shocked by the violence, "leisene people are not like thi," he said. "This would never have happened under Hecker [Erich Hecker, the former East German leader]. This sort of thing has never gone on all over Germany, anyway. It is not something happening exclusively in the east and it is certainly out of character in Meissen." He believes that

some of those who attacked his hostel came from other cities such as Dresden. The gang had gathered in the town after an inaugural meeting called by a branch of the far right German Peoples' Union (DVU), that had just won seats in the Bremen state parliamentary elections.

"A lot of them were only 13 or 14," Herr Trentzsch said. "Young boys like that get together because they feel strong in a group. They could just as easily have been throwing stones for the far left." Herr Trentzsch insists that the doors of the hostel must remain open. "We must not give way to violence."

The community is rallying round. Frau Renate Koch, a councillor, has promised that "it is our social and moral duty to see that we are not destroyed by these radicals". But the refugees' confidence has been shattered; many refuse to go out.

The attack suggests right-wing troublemakers are

becoming more organised, and are exploiting the shortage of police. Heinz Egert, who took over as Saxony's interior minister only last week, has already asked for extra police help from the West.

The Christian Democrats (CDU), who have an overall majority in Saxony, are pressing urgently for a change in the constitution that would exclude a majority of the refugees pouring into Germany at the rate of around 1,700 a day. All-party talks on this subject resumed in Bonn yesterday. Although it seems unlikely that the constitution will be amended, both government and opposition now appear to believe that limiting the number of people coming into the country is the best way of stopping support for the far right.

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Kenyan president rejects democracy

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya underlined his determination to resist the democratic tide in Africa yesterday with a pledge to maintain his one-party system for decades.

Affirming his determination to silence dissidents, he marked his thirteenth anniversary in power with a speech that appeared to be a direct rejection of recent international pressure for the democratisation of Kenya. Among those urging reform have been Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who made unusually explicit comments during a visit last month.

"I do not want to quit. I want to go on. I will be here for perhaps another 20 years. My critics will be tired," Mr Moi, aged 67, told a rally in Nairobi. He said pro-democracy activists wanted to incite the public against his well-managed government and could create disorder. "I cannot allow that. I will take action against these people who do not want peace, do not want progress, want chaos," he said.

"I have reached my limit now and I will take action. For

how long will I be tolerant? For how long will I let our citizens live in fear from people calling for change?" he asked the crowd. "I will not be ridden like a horse."

During his visit Mr Hurd pointedly called for more freedom of expression and noted the importance of "finding the right means of allowing Kenyans an effective say in choosing a leader". He said that he would "like to see multiparty democracy in Kenya" but described the suggestion as "advice to a friend".

Despite his threats to deal harshly with the opposition, Mr Moi did not specify yesterday how he would tackle such groups as the nascent Forum for Restoration of Democracy which has been refused official registration, but which has been campaigning for multiparty politics which, it says, would make Kenyan politicians accountable to the public.

Mr Moi did not refer to the movement directly yesterday but said that he would not allow any "unknown groups" to hold any meetings designed to disrupt peace. The forum

called for a rally last weekend to discuss "the restoration of democracy in Kenya" but cancelled it at the last minute after failing to obtain a licence to hold it. Last week, Mr Moi banned a pro-democracy rally and threatened to "crush like rats" anyone who attempted to attend.

On Wednesday the forum announced that it would hold the rally on November 16 "with or without a licence". A similar rally called in July last year caused nationwide riots in which at least 20 people were killed and led to the repression of opponents of one-party rule.

The Bush administration has already called on the Moi government to become more democratic and Congress is considering tying some forms of aid to an improved human rights performance and democratic reforms. Britain has made no move to reduce its £44 million annual aid and aid experts make the point that Britain is no longer the biggest donor, and that Japan and other countries are in a better position to influence the government in Nairobi.



Coming to blows: Italian cyclist Giovanni Lombardi, right, hitting out after he was punched by Bob Rosenberg of The Netherlands after they fell in the first round of the Toohey's Grand Prix Cycling race in Sydney

Castro lauded by party faithful

From REUTER
IN HAVANA

FIDEL Castro walked to the theatre, wearing his familiar olive-green uniform, and was overwhelmed by shouts of "Whatever you want, Fidel, whatever you want". The enthusiastic greeting one as Cuba's ruling communist party began its congress yesterday to draw up a strategy for survival.

Nearly 2,000 delegates attended the party meeting, which opened at a new theatre in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba, 600 miles southeast of Havana. Castro, the first secretary, has said in government will never abandon the one-party communist system enshrined in Cuba's constitution. It will, however, seek to bring it up to date with recent changes in the west, such as the swing away from communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the island's political mentor and main economic supplier for the past 30 years.

The congress, held at a time when Cuba is facing growing economic problems and international pressure to change its policies, was expected to last at least four days. A recent from the opening ceremony were Raul Castro, the armed forces minister, and D. Castro's brother, and General Abelardo Colome-Barra, the interior minister.

Esteban Lazo, who is party secretary for Santiago de Cuba and the host of the congress, said these two high-ranking officials were both "at their command posts", ensuring the defence and security of the nation.

The meeting opened as an historic date for Cuba: the 123rd anniversary of an 1868 uprising by a Cuban lawyer, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, who freed his slaves and launched an independence war against the island's Spanish rulers. The congress, the fourth held since the constitution was introduced in 1976, was due to debate and approve four draft resolutions referring to the ruling party's statutes and programme, to reforms in the local and national government and to the country's economic development.

Political dissidents meeting in Havana on Monday dismissed the reforms proposed at the congress as "concrete" and called for election and a multi-party system. Human rights activists reported that at least six of these dissidents were arrested in Havana on Wednesday, hours before the party congress was due to start.

IMF urges switch in spending

By DAVID WATTS

IF GOVERNMENTS take advantage of the opportunity offered by the peace dividend and cut agricultural subsidies, the reconstruction of the Middle East and Eastern Europe could be financed by the savings, Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said in Bangkok yesterday.

The rebuilding of these two areas would require about \$100 billion (£59 billion) over the next few years, but making the switch would demand formidable leadership, M. Camdessus said before the opening of the fund's annual meeting.

He said \$140 billion could be saved if countries that spent more than 4.5 per cent of their gross national product on arms cut spending to that level. The fund reported last May that Middle Eastern nations were spending 10.1 per cent of their gross national product on arms, while the figure for Eastern Europe was 9.9 per cent. Spending on farm support packages in the industrialised world alone totalled the \$100 billion likely to be needed in additional investments, he said.

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Queen visits school of hope in Namibia

From GAVIN BELL IN KATUTURA

TO THE delight of swarms of children, the Queen stepped into the murky past of apartheid yesterday and perceived a hopeful vision of a more enlightened future. On her only engagement with political undertones during her state visit to Namibia, the Queen inspected a symbol of resistance to racism at a black township.

The primary school in Katutura, on the outskirts of the capital, Windhoek, was founded by the community in 1986 to escape the Bantu education system imposed by the South African administration, and to establish English as the medium for multicultural teaching. Now more than 1,000 black and Coloured children are learning about the people who led the resistance against colonial oppression.

As the royal motorcade arrived, it passed fading revolutionary slogans urging people to vote for Swapo yesterday. (Reuters)

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Kate Muir speaks to the Duke of Devonshire, host of next week's very private Middle East conference

Lending a patrician air at the summit

Decisions, decisions. The life of a duke is not an easy one. A recent concern was: which room? With 175 to choose from at the family seat, which painted ceiling, which set of tapestries, pillars, which gilded chandeliers would be the surroundings most conducive to a private Middle East peace conference where Arabs, Jews and British politicians could talk, unobserved and unpressurised?

The eleventh Duke of Devonshire decided on a tennis-court-sized drawing room with an excess of mirror on the second floor, and a pleasant aspect over the fountains to the hills of Derbyshire. "We don't want the chairs too uncomfortable, but on the other hand if they're too soft they may nod off," muses the duke, drawing on his expertise in hosting coffee mornings, lectures and horse shows at Chatsworth.

The gathering next week, however, is in a different league. Although hosted by the duke, it is organised by the Next Century Foundation, an alliance of politicians and businessmen which aims to promote peace in the Middle East. The 24 names around the dinner table will include Arab ambassadors, a former Israeli minister, prominent Palestinians, Arab and Jewish industrialists, as well as Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the former Irish prime minister, Peter Shore, the Labour MP, Sir Barney Heyhoe, the Tory MP, Sir Richard Luce, the former arts minister, Lord Balfour, the eminent historian, Merlyn Rees, the former Labour Home Secretary, and David Gore-Booth, a Middle East specialist from the Foreign Office. The Israelis and Palestinians remain anonymous; safer when an Israeli peace campaigner was imprisoned this week for merely meeting Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader. "The security," confided the duke, "has come as something of a shock."

The duke — full names Andrew Robert Buxton Cavendish — is delighted to be dunked deep into politics again, having dipped in and out of it for so long, as a (former) SDP supporter in the Lords, and earlier as a twice-failed Conservative parliamentary candidate, and a junior minister. "I hope people can come here privately and talk off the record for a couple of days without having to pay attention to their public positions. The point is to show willing, and maybe informal connections made here will bear fruit somewhere else later." He pauses. "And of course we'll give them a good dinner."

Judging by the fresh coffee, homemade biscuits and offer to join the duke for a stiff drink rather early in the day, the hospitality will be generous. His Grace is busy in the study, which he refers to as his sitting room. "I do more sitting than studying, you see." The ceiling, up in the distance, is painted like a minor chapel; there are patterned pillars, paintings on easels where hanging space has run out, and walls of books.

Amid all the grandeur, the duke, despite his guardsman's height, looks built on too small a scale. As



A tenant in the family home: the Duke of Devonshire is proud of having never had to rely on public money for the upkeep of Chatsworth. Instead, 300,000 members of the public traipse through the house every summer

the butler opens the door, the duke's head and neck protrude, like a surprised tortoise, from a throne-like chair.

He says his interest in Middle Eastern affairs long predated the peace conference. He used to be president of the Conservative Friends of Israel, and got involved in Manchester's large Jewish community when he was chancellor of the university there in the 1980s. Now, he supports the neutral Next Century Foundation — "A good name, because nothing is going to be achieved overnight."

Politics is nothing new to the duke. In the 1960s, he held various posts in the Commonwealth Office, "which I never would have got except for nepotism by Harold Macmillan, my uncle by marriage". Despite a few Tory appointments, the family was always Whig and then Liberal, but broke with the party over home rule for Ireland. When the duke left the Conservatives for the Social Democrats in 1981, it was

largely for "sentimental reasons". Now, on the cross-benches, he takes more interest in foreign affairs. "I really cannot take any part in domestic politics. If you're as rich and privileged as I am you cannot start weighing in about what you think of the National Health Service." He looks slightly depressed. "I suppose . . ." — he waits to pounce on the word — "transport is a reasonable subject one could talk about."

For one of the ruling aristocratic elite, he is humble to a fault. Perhaps it is because he was born a younger son, and never intended for the dukedom. But when his brother was killed in the war, he suddenly became the heir. And Deborah, "Debo", one of the Mitford sisters, who had married him in 1941 with only his officer's pay to look forward to, became the Duchess of Devonshire. At the time she wrote to her sister Diana, then Lady Mosley. "I expect we shall be terribly [sic] poor, but

think how nice it will be to have as

'If you're as rich as I am you cannot start weighing in about what you think of the National Health Service'

many dogs and things as one likes without anyone to say they must get off the furniture." Now, £121 million richer, the only sight of the Duchess on this visit is of her shooting down the corridor, followed by two of the aforementioned dogs.

This year, the duke and duchess celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and invited 1,000 Derbyshire couples, who had also been married for 50 years, to join them for a cream tea on the Chatsworth lawn. The gesture was typical of the Duke's rampant paternalism. He pays the poll tax for his employees and pensioners who live with their families in a community of 750 in two villages

on the estate, with access to a private nine-hole golf course, tennis court and a swimming pool. It is not surprising that estate workers rarely leave. "That's our luck," the duke says. "There are really marvellous people here. Very high quality, and several families have been here for five generations."

Chatsworth has 300,000 paying visitors in an average summer. "We do very much encourage the public to come here, and they don't have to pay to use the park. It's lovely sitting here and listening to children playing rounders and cricket. I think one would feel very uncomfortable if they weren't there. And you see hardly any litter."

He is proud that not a penny of public money has gone into Chatsworth, which "turned into a charitable trust" to prevent the estate being eaten into by death duties. He now rents his 30 private rooms from the trust. When his father died, inheritance tax was 30 per cent, and it was only by selling some of the best Old Masters and later setting up the charity that the house and grounds survived intact. Still, the leftovers of the art collection are not to be sniffed at, with works by da Vinci, Raphael, Rubens and Rembrandt.

The duke works for charities other than his own. At 71, as he becomes increasingly short-sighted, he has taken up the Royal National Institute for the Blind, among others. Sound like a Miss World contestant, he says: "I do it because I so enjoy meeting people". He finds sport crosses conversational barriers with strangers, and says knowing a little bit about the local football team takes the average peer a long way.

This week, the duke's ice-melter concerns Gazza — his life, his injuries, his future. "I do hope he doesn't go the same way as Best. The boy's as daft as a brush, and under all that pressure." He shakes his head despairingly. "What he needs is a good aunt or someone to look after him . . . I say, what about Wales being beaten by Western Samoa?"

Underneath the aura of battiness there lurks a canny businessman, or at least a man with a good accountant. He may sell Old Masters, but at the same time he is quietly building up his private cache of paintings by Lucian Freud and Gwen John. He has six racehorses and, although this year was "appalling", every so often a win on the track buys a few more paintings. Or, more likely, art is traded for horseflesh. He likes the game of chance. The duke once said a word without bookmakers would be as unthinkable as Trafalgar Square without the lions. But then, he can afford to take risks.

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Young views on the box

Winners of Channel 3 franchises will, in part, have children's opinions to thank

Jean Richards would like to invite children, possibly your children, to consider television viewing as "homework". Parents may consider Mrs Richards a dangerous subversive and hope she never knocks on their door but she, or someone very like her, may do just that.

Mrs Richards is a researcher for the Young Viewer's Panel, a body which invites children aged between four and 15 to become television critics, keeping "diaries" of what they do and do not enjoy. And if the opportunity to watch television legitimately is not encouragement enough, the panel also offers children the opportunity of winning £25 in a monthly draw, a quarterly newsletter and an annual competition (this year, there were ten prizes of £15 each).

In the interests of her job Mrs Richards visits 18 houses a day (including Christmas Day) and wears out one pair of shoes a month. Some parents, it is true, do not welcome her into their homes, but not for the reason most might assume. Mrs Richards has been surprised by the number of fathers who have come home during her initial interview with the children (which the mother has agreed to) and booted the question out: "Some are worried that I'm really here to check their television licences," she says.

What is she there to do? The purpose of the Young Viewers' Panel, set up five years ago by a research company commissioned by the Broadcasters

Audience Research Board, is to provide independent research on children's viewing habits to the ITV companies and the BBC. This, along with ratings and specially commissioned market research surveys, will have helped the Independent Television Commission (ITC) panel sift out the worthy competitors for children's prime viewing in their considerations for the Channel 3 licences, expected to be awarded next week.

Sue Elliott, a senior ITC television programming officer, says the Viewers' Panel research "is good background help which builds a picture of what is and is not popular on the most basic level".

A total of 1,000 children are selected from the Royal Mail post code address file. "But if the panel is short, say, of boys in the four to six age group in a certain part of the country, we send interviewers to knock on doors," says Peter Meneer, the head of the BBC's broadcasting research department.

The children who are selected are part of the panel for two years. Once a month they fill in eight or so sheets of multiple choice questions (known as diaries) in order to give their verdict on the children's programmes that have caught their eye during the set week in that month.

The Children's Channel, a pan-European station delivering children's programmes 12 hours a day, says the children's television top ten is



The money or the box: children are targeted for surveys and offered the chance of cash prizes

Neighbours, *Coronation Street*, *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*, *Children's Ward*, *Alphonso Bonzo*, *EastEnders*, *New Adventure Mouse*, *Top of the Pops*, *Byker Grove* and *Wool*. Mrs Richards, from her experience, would agree with *EastEnders* (from age four upwards), *Neighbours*, *Top of the Pops* and the American cartoons, and add to them *Sesame Street*, the new style *Playdays* and detective thrillers (*Inspector Morse*).

Parental comment is not invited in her research but Mrs Richards gets it anyway. "Many complain about bad accents and language on children's programmes and they also moan about unsuitable programmes being screened too early." Children moan about news programmes.

Children under 13 like filling in the forms, says David Hollis, a reporter for BBC broadcasting research. They see it as a "sort of school project". But after that age, apathy sets in and the drop-out rate can be as high as two-thirds before their two-year panel stint is up. Interviewers are now asking some parents for phone numbers so that they can experiment with conducting telephone assessments in areas where there has been a low response rate.

Mr Hollis says that although some older children prefer

actions although they are a useful aid". But has Ms Home ever done anything drastic to a programme as a result of her team of junior critics? She has to admit she has not.

JANE BIDDER
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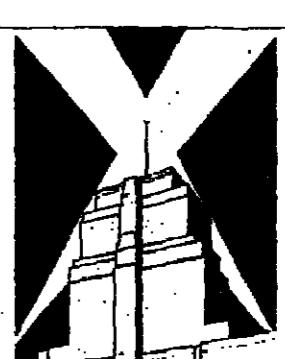
Between 1939 and 1945 almost 20,000 people gained University of London degrees.

If you were one of them you will remember that wartime conditions prevented us from holding degree ceremonies.

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Room 125, Senate House
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GALLERIES: LONDON

Portraits in decadent rouge

From prancing horses to dancing girls, Toulouse-Lautrec captured French life with unrivalled veracity. Richard Cork visits the Hayward Gallery's dynamic retrospective

Soon after the adolescent Toulouse-Lautrec broke both his thigh-bones in successive accidents, he painted a spirited little study of an artillerist saddling his horse. With a *brio* quite astonishing in so fledgling an artist, he gave the animal's body a pent-up, quicksilver expectancy. Next straining forward, it scents the air and longs to follow, the other horse already galloping off in a haze of hoof-dust.

Lautrec himself shared this sense of yearning. The more crippled he became by a rare bone disease, the more he viewed the idea of untrammelled movement with frustrated excitement. His congenital disability surely helps to account for the outstanding intensity of the early horse paintings which give the Hayward Gallery retrospective such initial dynamism.

In 1880, when he was still only 16, Lautrec spent a convalescent holiday in Nice. The sight of his father Count Alphonse driving his mail-coach along the Promenade des Anglais provided an ideal subject, and the vivacity of the four horses is defined with pre-cocious assurance.

No wonder that an equestrian painter, René Princeteau, became his first teacher. Lautrec painted a satirical yet affectionate portrait of his deaf and dumb mentor, *palète in hand*, and staring at a stunted fox's head on the studio wall. Princeteau, for his part, called the irrepressible Lautrec, "my little monkey", and helped to inspire the most arresting of all his pupil's early paintings. Called *Abduction*, it shows a naked man riding bareback as he claps a Sabine-like woman to his side. But the most mesmeric part of the picture is the horse itself. Charging frantically forward, the animal appears to be flying above the ground. Its front legs are splayed outwards in dramatic diagonal thrusts, as ecstatic as any of the dance movements Lautrec would later delight in capturing at the Moulin Rouge.

Within a year of completing *Abduction*, he decided to cock a snook at the vogue for mythological fantasy. With the help of his fellow-students, Lautrec painted a colossal copy of Puvis de Chavannes's pallid allegory *The Sacred Grove with the Arts and Muses*. The classical figures

play no interest in the verve of the dancers; she is there for wholly commercial reasons.

The brittle tension in Lautrec's art depends on his ability to pin down the sleaziness as well as the allure of his chosen locale'

ing form of *La Goulue*, whose skirts swirl around her outflung leg with the force of a bomb.

This inflammatory image made

Lautrec's reputation as a master of binary economy and instantaneous impact. It also ensured that his signature, brazenly inscribed on the titling floor-boards, would forever be linked with the name of the Moulin Rouge written in replicate at the top of the poster like a demented chant.

When Lautrec produced a large and ambitious painting of the same subject, though, he disclosed a more ambivalent attitude. Although the design centres on the lithe limbs of a performer in action, he shows a rehearsal rather than the jostling excitement of a night at the dance-hall. The picture's title, *Training the New Girls*, has a ring of Degas. But Lautrec realised that he was dealing in this echoing barn of a space, with a world far less gossamer than the ballet. The top-batted men in the distance have a predatory air, while the woman dominating the foreground in a puce dress is probably a prostitute. Her lowered eyes and stiff, self-conscious detachment dis-

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The brittle tension in Lautrec's art

Peter Stothard reports from Washington on a dirty campaign to bar Clarence Thomas from the Supreme Court

Geraldine Ferraro, former Democrat vice-presidential candidate, has been recalling how, as an 18-year-old typist she was sexually harassed by her boss. "He used to stand behind me very close and jingle his money," she said this week, "and when he called me into his office at Christmas bonus time, I knew very well what he was trying to do and I quit the job."

Mrs Ferraro has only just recovered from her last visit to the low zones of American politics. In 1984, she was the victim, pursued to ignominious defeat by allegations about her husband's life with the Mafia. Today, as opponents of supreme court nominee Clarence Thomas close in for their kill, she is campaigning to become a New York senator and enthusiastically joining the huntsman's pack.

In an unprecedented televised inquisition today, Judge Thomas must answer allegations from his

former personal assistant that he asked her for "dates" in the early 1980s and that, when she refused, he discussed pornographic movies and the best sexual positions for people and animals. If he cannot answer these charges, his chances of confirmation are slim.

He will not, of course, be able to deny that he was a sexual harasser, for the alleged events happened ten years ago. Anita Hill, his accuser, is now a calm and persuasive professor of law. She has not even characterised Judge Thomas's actions as harassment, which is a criminal offence. She merely wants his "behaviour" to be taken into account.

This is where Mrs Ferraro and her friends come in. The road to today's bizarre hearing began when a pro-abortion lobby heard of the Hill allegations from one of the professor's friends. The senate judiciary committee was tipped off. The judge's opponents, who

Sexual judgment



Hill: sexually harassed?

were patiently waiting for the Democrat senators to trip him up under questioning, were delighted that this extra weapon was in the committee's hands.

By last weekend it was clear that Judge Thomas had revealed nothing about his attitude to abortion. His confirmation seemed secure. But the sexual harassment allegations had been kept secret — at Professor Hill's own request, the senators claimed. Hurriedly they were leaked again, this time to sympathetic journalists. The emphasis was now not only on the events in Clarence Thomas's old Education Department office, but on the failure of the all-male judiciary committee to follow up

just dog's not get it," rose the cry. Mrs Ferraro and others rummaged through their memories.

As the women's groups marched, there was a nasty sense in senate corridors that something new was happening. This was not the usual Washington game of sexual Space Invaders, routinely played by enemies of such as Jack Kemp, Tom Foley, Chuck Robb and President Bush himself. This was different from the anonymous senate testimony of "womanising and drunkenness" which helped bar John Tower from the Pentagon in 1989.

Smearing has always been the obverse of democratic accountability. The broader the constitu-

ency, the more tempting has smearing become. It may be that few television viewers understand Judge Thomas's theory of natural rights, but everyone understands sex. The "character issue" has become an essential part of Washington politics as the chicken dinner, although to listen to some of the outrage this week, one would think that the city had never before seen the secret assassin's slime-trail.

The real abnormality in this whole affair may be yet to come. Even if Clarence Thomas is defeated, his successor is likely also to be an opponent of abortion rights. The Roe v Wade judgment, which for almost twenty years has protected abortion is highly vulnerable.

Although some analysts have warned that American women might fight for their rights through the ballot box, conventional wisdom has so far decreed that

abortion will never determine a national campaign. This week, a women's issue hit the political surface and the White House did not like the result. It was a shock to see the normally unflappable senate majority leader, George Mitchell, standing up before his peers like a drunken conductor who has lost his place in the score.

It will be no less extraordinary today when Senator Edward Kennedy, whose pages in the sexual-political history of America are already assured, gets his chance to quiz Judge Thomas about proper behaviour with women.

Will the committee ask about the vintage porn movies? Will the judge reply? Will he even remember? Will she? The scenario has become worthy of Hollywood itself. Bob Guccione meets Franz Kafka, starring George Bush and Geraldine Ferraro; from an original far-out idea by Thomas Jefferson.

True face of mercy killing

A do-it-yourself suicide book is the final obscenity, says Daniel Johnson

Suicide is not a right. It is a mortal sin. It is not merely a denial of hope, a misguided indulgence in fatalism: it can blight the lives of friends and relatives. Euthanasia pressure groups such as the Hemlock Society prey on the primordial fears of the sick, the old and the clinically depressed.

Yesterday it was reported that the society's founder, Derek Humphry, has lost his depressed and gravely ill former wife, Ann, who apparently killed herself in accordance with the advice given in his do-it-yourself book *Final Exit*. Even some of those who deplore her death may be seduced by the notion that suicide and "mercy killing" are excusable, even humane. Just as all kinds of depravity can be justified as "alternative lifestyles", so euthanasia has become an alternative deathstyle.

The name of the Hemlock Society is an allusion to the death of Socrates, and the famous suicides of history and literature are often dragged into the euthanasia cause. The ancient world's attitude to suicide was influenced by its metaphysical convictions: fatalism, cyclical time and a blurring of the edges between divinity and humanity. But classical suicides can be divided into two categories: those like Socrates or Seneca who carried out their own executions, and those like Antony and Cleopatra or the Jews at Massada who preferred death to dishonour.

Christianity drew on the Platonic belief in the immortal soul, but combined this with the Jewish emphasis on a moral law which condemns suicide as an abdication of man's obligations to his creator. Having postulated the sanctity of life as a gift of God, the new religion taught that despair was the ultimate denial of the divine will. Insisting on the the individual's responsibility for his actions, both Christianity and Judaism established the principle that no external compulsion could justify suicide.

The modern justification of suicide as a moral "right" was alien to the ancients; even more so to the romantic association of suicide with melancholia. Suicide as

a resolution of any moral dilemma, often associated with adulterous or unrequited love, became fashionable when one of the first European bestsellers, Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, seized the imagination in the 1770s. No matter that Goethe himself intended his novel to trace the pathology of a noble mind clouded by what would today be termed manic depression; instead of a terrible warning, Werther became a model. Thereafter, suicide was no longer a taboo.

Once suicide had been legitimised as a moral choice, the way was clear for it to be co-opted into the medical field as "euthanasia". The 20th-century cult of euthanasia was associated with the rise of eugenics and racial theory. Astonishingly, the campaign to make voluntary euthanasia a right survived the involuntary practice of the Nazis, which exterminated hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people before church protests halted it. Suicide was a prominent feature of all the totalitarian systems, but even they did not produce the obscenity of the do-it-yourself suicide book.

Clinical depression is the common factor in most suicide attempts; it is often decisive, even when physical pain or terminal illness are involved. Yet modern drugs and therapeutic methods can cure or ameliorate all but the most severe depressive conditions. It has become a cliché that suicide attempts among the young are usually "cries for help". All too many of them, though, are successful, and the availability of lethal and painless drugs has ensured that many more would succeed if techniques such as those peddled by Derek Humphry were widely known.

Euthanasia and suicide are two aspects of the same evil: the relegation of life to a lower status than well-being. That suffering, emotional and physical, may be the price of participation in the human adventure is ignored by those who preach that life is not an absolute, but merely a relative good. Those who must live with the suicidal temptation are not helped by those who seek to elevate their despair into a virtue.

John Major needs to answer a simple question in his speech in Blackpool this afternoon: why should voters return the Tories for an unprecedented fourth term? He has to offer both his party and, more important, the country a sense of direction. That focus has largely been absent from the party conference so far.

The Tories' immediate challenge has been managing the transition from the Thatcher era. The warm reception which Mrs Thatcher received on Tuesday was less a continuing protest at last November's coup than an emotional vote of thanks. It came from the activists' hearts; their heads accept that the change has happened and that the popularity of Mr Major has improved their party's election chances.

The activists' willingness to put the leadership contest behind them was proved by the standing ovation given to the assassin himself. Michael Heseltine was at his shameless best, scrapping the poll tax with an effortless sleight of hand and taunting Labour with all his old skill. He gave the speech he would have loved to deliver as leader.

Not least of Mr Major's achievements has been to heal the wounds of last November. The cabinet is harmonious; ministers now have a freedom unknown before. Mr Major is first among equals rather than dominant. Douglas Hurd, looking every day more like the wise senior statesman, rules over the Foreign Office.

The enigma is Norman Lamont who, unlike, say, Kenneth Baker or Mr Heseltine, tends to undersell himself. For all his adroitness in managing Mr Major's campaign, Mr Lamont does not always act like a political heavyweight. His delivery on Wednesday was wooden, and there was little hint of what he has achieved in the talks on European monetary union or in alleviating the impact of the poll tax.

Mr Lamont's performance was one side of what has been an uneasy week for the Tories. Party managers wanted to show that the government is still fresh and getting on with the job after nearly

12½ years in office. MPs will be kept busy in the coming session. But that is not enough.

Unfortunately for the Tories, the outside world has kept intruding. They do not have the freedom of Labour to propose and oppose with no direct results. They have been constrained by the responsibilities of government.

Malcolm Rifkind's announcement of the Channel Tunnel rail link was immediately attacked by both British Rail and Euronet.

Mr Lamont's cautious comments about economic recovery and his promise to cut taxes came on a day

when the Bank of England intervened to support sterling. Carefully phrased references to the current European talks by both Mr Lamont and Mr Hurd did not answer widespread misgivings within the party. We have not heard the last of the case for a referendum on monetary and political union; some current, as well as former, ministers are sympathetic, in spite of Mr Hurd's opposition.

Above all, the health service has been a problem. Throughout the week, stories have recurred about cuts in services in hospitals which have opted for trust status.

Waldegrave reasonably

argues that Robin Cook is distorting the truth in talking about privatisation since health care will still be free at the point of delivery, while Labour has never explained when and how it will boost spending. But the government is losing the argument in the opinion polls. On television, Mr Cook regularly has the edge over Mr Waldegrave, who sounds defensive and edgy.

Until his speech yesterday, there was muttering about his future; recalling R.A. Butler's famous non-endorsement of Anthony Eden, one fellow minister remarked: "William is the best health secretary we have got." Such talk should now be stilled, for the time being. Mr Waldegrave raised his own morale, and the party's, with a fighting speech. Using the language of One Nation Toryism, he did not back down from the reforms. He roused the conference, always sympathetic to an underdog. But he needs to repeat the performance on television and in the Commons.

Even without these distractions, this week's speeches have amounted to little more than a mixture of defending current policies, attacking inconsistencies in Labour's

approach, and a hope that the economy will recover by the spring. The Tories will naturally try to highlight the areas in which they are already strong in the polls: economic competence, defence and law and order. Mr Baker, who has been subject to widespread criticism recently, forcefully counter-attacked his detractors, offering a message of fire and brimstone, but conceding nothing of substance to the "hangars and floggers".

Within the government, Michael Howard has emerged as one of the leading advocates of "firm adherence to radical reform". In a fringe speech, he argued that the key to Britain's competitive position lies in continuing to cut taxes and reduce the regulatory burden on business. By contrast, while not disagreeing over any details, Chris Patten offered something more like consolidation in his stylish chairman's address on Tuesday. He even conceded that governments make mistakes from time to time, an admission of fallibility rarely heard at recent party conferences.

Mr Major has skillfully bridged these differing tendencies. Today he needs to be more than the adept whip. He has to lift his party by stating his beliefs about the balance between improving public services and cuts in taxation, and about European union. In short, what would Britain be like after a full Major term?

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Yesterday found me in a brothel. I knew where to look. It knew that an ace reporter did not let the grass grow, if the nation was undergoing yet another of those prurient convulsions periodically detonated by a great man's moral hiccup, then it was the bounden duty of everyone with a trenchcoat and a bit of short-hand to raise the double standard high and march towards the sound of the smirking.

You know me, though a timeless sook after truth, I eschew the easy routes. I am not a man to lurk behind the Kellogg's display in some Balaeric Tesco, idly waiting for a fugitive pillar of society to push his trolley past, nor am I, when the editorial cry goes out to round up the usual psychopaths, content simply to cobble their clichés into another lecturette about why men blessed with radiant and fragrant domesticity should occasionally find themselves doom'd for a certain term to walk the night. I dig deep. If necessary, I am prepared to go back two thousand years.

Or 1912 years, to be precise, which is what we can be in this case. We know the exact hour at which, on August 24, 79 AD, time stood still for lovers, and never started again. We can walk into the little whorehouse behind Abbondanza Street and know that one moment the occupants of its five snug cubicles were at it like knives, and the next gash-missus had whistled through

the tiny window and gassed them where they frolicked. For the earth had moved for them: the top had blown off Vesuvius, and that was that: after a bit, a blanket of pumice dust tucked them in for a couple of millennia, until it was time for caring archaeologists to get their brooms out, because tourists had begun queuing at the gates, waving currency.

Which was where I was yesterday, shot thither by an inaugural Euro Express Daybreak, which leaves Heathrow at breakfast, gets you to Pompeii only 1912 years earlier, and has you back in London for dinner. Plenty of time to learn all there is to know about life in 1st-century Italy, and more than enough if you are an ace reporter intent only upon discovering what it was like to be a Latin lover when they were actually doing it in Latin. Indeed, one of the many ancillary delights of pottering about a Pompeian fumhouse, for those of us once forced to grapple inadequately with Hillard and Bottig, is to imagine those old stucco walls echoing to the din of joyful gerunds and ecstatic ablatives shrieked by people able to do it totally spontaneously in the course of doing something else, without having to stop and wonder whether all their adjectives agreed with all their nouns.

Any doubt about what it was they were doing is soon dispelled by a glance at the old stucco itself. The miraculously preserved frescoes are both a menu and a testament to what can do.

I was too smart to do any of that. I made an excuse and left.

Speech therapy

A LITTLE-KNOWN Cheltenham doctor has emerged as the man responsible for saving William Waldegrave's political career.

Faced with the task of delivering the most crucial speech of his political life, Waldegrave rejected most of the advice from Tory central office's public relations advisers. Instead he put his faith in the wisdom of Clive Foggatt, a National Health Service GP for the last 20 years, who drafted much of his speech. Waldegrave's wife, Caroline, also took a prominent role in the writing. The result was, most observers felt, a considerable success.

Waldegrave drafted his first thoughts for the speech almost three weeks ago. Foggatt, a former Tory county councillor, was then given a copy, as were three other advisers. They added to the speech and restructured it before

Now, say Ah!

As we ace reporters say, it made you think. If you were not careful, you could easily find yourself nibbling at the old chestnut about state-run brothels, and before you knew it, you might have had to face the one about Pompeii's being dedicated to Venus and how much easier it might be to worship something a little more sympathetic than our own celibate divinities. And soon after that you might even have had to ask yourself how far we have crawled in 2,000 years.

Waldegrave took it away for further work. After several rewriting sessions, Foggatt was invited to take a critical look at the revised version in the health secretary's Whitehall office last week. In a pre-booked rehearsal room



in Blackpool's Imperial Hotel on Tuesday night, Waldegrave's advisers gathered to hear read it aloud for the first time. Foggatt, Caroline Waldegrave, Richard Marsh, his special adviser, and Ian Taylor, his parliamentary private secretary, were present.

Foggatt, aged 43, who was in the conference hall to hear the speech, says: "I don't want to take the credit for this. It was William's speech first and foremost." But he was not responsible for the references to "Arthur Daley", the television character from *Minder*. Those were all Waldegrave's own work. Apparently, he is a great fan.

Ring off

WHILE much of what occurs on stage has received a critical dubbing, the conductor, Bernard Haitink has been cheered to the rafters nightly at Covent Garden's new Ring cycle. But it is a far cry from one of his ambitions: to stage a "Ring for the masses" at the Albert Hall, with cheap seats. Haitink was excited at the prospect of staging such a project, when Covent Garden was due to be closed for rebuilding in 1993 and 1994. But now, with the closure delayed at least until 1996, there must be doubt about whether Haitink, who is thought unlikely to renew his contract next year, will ever fulfil his dream.

Green Pooh-Bah
YESTERDAY'S appointment of Robin Herbert as chairman of the trustees at Kew is rather like making the chancellor of Cambridge University simultaneously chancellor of Oxford. For Herbert is also president of the Royal Horticultural Society, and so now holds the two most important jobs in his field. Herbert began as a schoolboy "growing pots of geraniums in my room at Eton". By the time he was 16, he had inherited a ten-acre garden in Wales, which he now tends only at weekends, because of his banking career in London. "One can do both jobs," he says. "The only thing that will suffer is time for my own garden."

Tim Renton has had the best conference of all. While fellow ministers have been hard at work at Blackpool, the arts minister has this week been hard at work seeing the last production in the aforementioned Ring cycle, visiting a private view of the Toulouse Lautrec exhibition on the South Bank (where he joined in the Can Can), being interviewed by Jimmy Young about National Music Day, and attending the Sumo wrestling at the Albert Hall. But yesterday was not so good. He was in Blackpool listening to his ministerial colleagues.

Pages of history

IN THE search for a compromise over how to pay tribute to Bomber Command's role in the war, plans are afoot to produce a sumptuous, hand-tipped volume detailing the courage of individual pilots, engineers and navigators. "This would be a much less controversial way of recognising their courage than the proposed statue of Arthur Harris," says former Hurricane pilot John Golley. Golley plans the work as a companion volume to his book *So Few*, celebrating the exploits of Bomber Command's pilots, which was recently presented by John Major to George Bush. "Something must be done for these Bomber boys. I'm red hot keen to do it," says Golley in ripely RAF language.



UNHEALTHY POLITICS

The great health service row remains, after another week of bludgeoning of and by ministers, what it has been all along – a synthetic political squabble devoid of substance. For Labour to be in power today, its leaders would be wrestling with identical problems of allocating roughly similar resources. It would be wrestling to free itself from producer dominance and to give consumers more freedom and choice. And it too would have to tackle London, whose hospitals are monuments to three decades of producer dominance and pusillanimous government.

In pursuing long overdue changes, the Conservatives are handicapped by an image of lack of care for public-sector services generally. Margaret Thatcher's impatience with that part of the economy for which her government was custodian for a decade is a heavy burden on the shoulders of her successors. The tax boost to private medicine was a foolish gesture of antagonism. Yet the Tory party is not opposed to the NHS: it has become acutely aware of the electoral importance of backing it.

The NHS has even taken over from the army and the police as the department most favoured among backbenchers. William Waldegrave and his predecessors as health secretary have won most of the spending battles with the Treasury. But as long as health is a public-sector service, unreformed and undelivered and with every decision open to challenge in Parliament, so long will Labour be able to stigmatise the Conservatives as not really believing in it.

Mr Waldegrave has had other obstacles to surmount. Since the NHS changes are designed to improve value for money from the health service – which means using the language of costs and benefits – it is peculiarly easy for opponents to charge that the reforms "put money before health". The real scandal is not that modern management has at last caught up with the NHS, but that so much of the £3 billion a year that the service costs is spent without proper consideration of priorities.

Since picking up the poisoned chalice, Mr

Waldegrave has gone to some lengths in redefining these terms, in changing customers back to patients. Leaders of the doctors, nurses and manual ancillary workers have pretended that demand for health is a limitless right. Such economic illiteracy may do credit to their trade union, single-mindedness, but does none to their status as responsible "carers".

For both reasons, Labour has found it easy to pursue its campaign against Mr Waldegrave and his colleagues. In doing so it has managed to wrongfoot successive health secretaries. The reforms were delayed as consultations stretched from months to years under Norman Fowler and then under Kenneth Clarke. Their rash concessions were made to buy off political unpopularity, notably the nurses' pay and grading settlement in 1988. This gave the whole NHS a belief that the cabinet would pay a king's ransom to have its reforms accepted by its critics.

Finally plans to tackle the chaos of London's hospitals were put off again and again, until, with utter predictability, the opting-out arrangements brought chickens home to roost. Now Mr Waldegrave seems to be backing away from further opting out in London pending a survey of hospitals in the capital. The internal market may be the chosen means of reordering in-patient priorities elsewhere in the country. But in the capital, as with privatised bus services, markets are suddenly a less than ideal form of resource allocation for a Tory party with its back to the wall.

Such is the power of the producer lobbies for which Labour is now a near-hysterical spokesman. Labour has not come forward with a single new good idea. The cynicism with which Robin Cook and Harriet Harman have sought to promote their claim that the Tories really mean to privatise the NHS has been shameless. British politics now finds it almost impossible to debate such reforms to the political economy in other than the most partisan terms. And for this unhealthy state, both parties must take the blame.

QUALITY SCREENING

The fate of some of the great names of British television, including Thames, Granada and LWT, is today in the hands of the ten members of the Independent Television Commission. Unless they need to meet again, their decision is expected to be made by the weekend. The ITC's duty must be to preserve above all the quality of the service, if necessary by pushing the rules under which it has to operate to the very limits of their lawful interpretation.

The government's original method for distributing the new licences to broadcast – merely giving them to the highest bidder – had no merits beyond simplicity. By trying to adjust the method to meet trenchant criticism, including some from its own backbenchers, even that virtue has been lost. The task facing the ITC is now of staggering complexity, and involves subjective judgments which are almost impossible to make. No way should anything like this auction ever be repeated, and significantly not a single minister is now prepared to claim credit for the exercise.

First, the ITC has to weed out any bids which do not pass a "quality threshold" set by itself. Under the broadcasting bill as originally drafted, its only task would have been to see that the highest bids were financially viable. But the bill was amended in passage not only to include this test but also to allow the ITC to set aside a higher bid if "exceptional circumstances" warranted it. The extent to which these vague phrases can be stretched to protect the public interest is now for the ITC itself to decide. The public interest never lay in extracting some £200-£300 million from the commercial television sector as a windfall to the Treasury and does not lie in squeezing the last £5 million now.

The phrase "exceptional circumstances" was conceded by the government to answer the charge that it was bent on wiping out the public-service element in commercial television. The only interpretation of this phrase which makes sense, therefore, is to turn it into a bias in favour of quality. But even that

cannot mean simply comparing the programmes on offer and selecting the most attractive package for each region.

Bidders bid blind. They had to guess what the other bidders were submitting, and then add a few million in the hope of exceeding them. Some bidders desperate not to lose their franchise, such as TV5 with its £60 million, went high; Central, because it had no rival in its region, offered a derisory figure variously reported at between £2,000 and £1 million.

The high bidders need to convince the ITC that the capital they must raise to give to the Treasury will not so denude programming budgets as to make their promises of quality impossible to deliver. But the business plans submitted with the bids must make guesses about the rate of recovery from recession, particularly in the advertising industry. Who can possibly know? Yet if a high-bidding company gets it wrong and yet wins its franchise, it may face bankruptcy.

To stave off bankruptcy, such companies may be tempted to abandon their more ambitious programming promises. The ITC may then have to decide whether to cancel the franchise licence, and before that point is reached, whether to allow networking to function in a way which will cushion companies in trouble. Relations between impoverished companies and rich ones, as they sit down to discuss their contributions to network scheduling, will be turbulent, especially after 1994 when the richer ones will be free to take over failing neighbours.

All this is quite different from the government's early dreams of a free market in television, regulated only to ensure minimal standards. The ITC is now left to make the best of a very bad job. The public interest would be served by setting the quality threshold high, and preferring those companies which have proved they can produce good programmes rather than those which merely make promises.

PUBLICANS AT BAY

The Tory party is traditionally the party of the brewers, of Youngers and Guinness. Once that meant that it was also the party of the publicans. Publicans and brewers coexisted, in a cosy conspiracy against their customers, called the tied house. The brewers made their money because, in tied houses, they were the monopoly suppliers of beers, spirits and fruit machines. So they let the publicans off lightly with low rents and free maintenance.

Then along came a Tory government with radical instincts. Following a report from the Monopolies Commission, tied houses were cut back. Rents are now being increased twofold and more, as the brewers seek to recoup what they no longer collect through the tills. Many publicans do not like it, and yesterday they descended on Blackpool to press their case.

Economics would give them short shrift. If they cannot stand the heat of a market rent, they should get out of their kitchens. But sentiment is on their side. They appeal to an older Tory tradition, the tradition that loves Olde England, dislikes change, and cares for venerable institutions. No more will England be a land of thatched inns overlooking village greens where gaudy ploughmen play cribbage over a pint of wallop. In will come theme pubs, music pubs, pubs with electronic games and pubs where the "usual" is Belgian brown laced with cherry juice.

Now we are in the middle of a third and more diffuse revolution. There is the pub as entertainment centre, with live music, alternative comedy or televised sport. There is the pub as mid-market restaurant, with an international menu of microwaved dishes. There are the new village pubs, modelled on the best of the old village pubs but with far higher catering standards. Nobody can predict which of these will ultimately prosper and which fail. What is certain is that the publicans at the conference have as much chance of bucking the trend as they have of stopping the tide on Blackpool beach.

During the last two years I have been connected with a court chal-

ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

From Professor Joseph Rotblat

Sir, The announcements by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev that short-range nuclear missiles are to be eliminated, and radical cuts made in other nuclear weaponry, make wonderful news (reports, September 28, October 2, 7). These are momentous steps towards a rational policy on a vital aspect of world security.

We should now begin to ponder on the next, more fundamental steps. The present thinking envisages further reductions in nuclear arsenals, down to the so-called minimum deterrent. But is this where we should stop? Can a system in which a few states are allowed to retain these weapons be stable in the long run?

If we (the nuclear weapon states) consider the retention of nuclear weapons as essential to our security, how can such security be denied to other states? The underlying notion that, in our hands, possession of nuclear weapons is a guarantee of peace, while their possession by other states is a danger to peace, is untenable in an equitable society; it cannot be the basis for a stable world order.

We have, therefore, to consider other solutions. Among them is the most radical and oldest objective: the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The very first resolution of the United Nations, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in January 1946, pledged "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction". During the dark decades of the Cold War this objective was seen by many as Utopian, but now it deserves serious consideration.

Nuclear weapons cannot be disintegrated. But is this a sufficient reason for their retention? It is a hallmark of a civilised society that it attempts to control, by legislation and international treaties, the undesirable products of technological advances. There is general agreement that chemical and biological weapons should be eliminated and their production and possession banned by international convention. Why should such a convention be ruled out, without a proper study, in relation to nuclear weapons?

The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, a movement of scientists who lend their specialised knowledge to seek means to avert the menace of war, recently started a project on the desirability and feasibility of a nuclear weapons-free world. We bring together scholars of diverse expertise and nationality to study the various aspects of the problem in the spirit of scientific objectivity.

I believe that such studies are necessary and urgent, and should be undertaken by other groups in society. The time has come to seek a permanent solution to one of the most dreadful perils facing mankind.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH ROTBLAT
(President, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs),
Flat A, 63a Great Russell Street, WC1.

BREAST EXAMINATION

From Mr A. A. Kubba

Sir, The recent breast-examination controversy (report, October 2) raises two important issues. First, health screening cannot only be judged by its life and death value, which tends to cause polarisation, confusion and ultimately apathy. It also undermines confidence in common-sense health practices which in the case of breast examination can enable detection of early disease, thereby avoiding potentially mutilating surgery.

Secondly, in these controversies women tend to be the losers. Having over the years convinced women that they risk death if they deviated from ritualistic breast examination, often propagated by a plethora of manuals and guides, we now seem to hand them over to the "no-touch" breast-awareness lobby without a clear view of what we are meant to achieve. Surely self-breast examination as a means of achieving breast-awareness is the best of both worlds.

Yours sincerely,
A. A. KUBBA
(Consultant community gynaecologist),
St. Thomas' Hospital, SE1.

ASYLUM AND THE TORIES

From Mr David Burgess

Sir, Mr Peter Lloyd, the immigration minister (October 9), clearly believes that if you repeat a statement enough times people will believe it. Once again we have his assertion that only a minority of those who seek asylum are "genuine refugees"; yet, even on the Home Office's own figures, 89 per cent of those seeking asylum in the UK are given permission to remain as being in need of protection.

Mr Lauder-Frost, writing in the same issue, refers to most of those coming to the United Kingdom as being "economic migrants", like the Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong. That term is not a legal term but a slur, used by politicians who seek to make themselves and those they speak to feel easier about returning numbers of asylum-seekers to the risk of persecution.

During the last two years I have been connected with a court chal-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

CIVIL SERVANTS AND TELLING THE TRUTH

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, The prime minister has said that Duncan Nichol, the NHS chief executive, a senior civil servant, bound by civil service rules, was justified in stating "what is the truth" (report, October 8). In this he appeared to support the reported statement of Mr Chris Patten that Duncan Nichol was "entitled, and duty bound even, to speak his mind".

Does this mean that all civil servants are entitled to tell the truth as they see it, or only when their perception of the truth coincides with the government's?

Moreover, are we now to conclude that civil servants are no longer bound by the rules of conduct agreed by the government only last year that they must "conduct themselves in such a way as to deserve and retain the confidence of Min-

isters and be able to establish the same relationship with those whom they may be required to serve in some future administration" (Lord Armstrong of Ilminster's memorandum of 1985, reaffirmed by the government last year)?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SYMONS,

General Secretary,
The Association of First Division Civil Servants

2 Caxton Street, SW1.

From Miss Mary M. Wait

Sir, As the Labour party is so shocked by the entry of the civil service into party politics, may we take it that it will, in future, refuse to receive any documents leaked by that service?

Yours faithfully,
MARY M. WAIT,

35 Cavendish Street,

Chichester, Sussex.

October 8.

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Yours faithfully,
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Chichester, Sussex.

October 8.

From Miss Mary M. Wait

Sir, With great sadness my director and I have joined the price-cutting charade started by Dillons and now Waterstones. We have taken this step very reluctantly, as hitherto our own sales have not been affected by Dillons' activities (on the contrary, most of our London shops have experienced an up-turn in trade); but we cannot afford to allow our customers to believe that books at those two stores are necessarily cheaper than at ours.

Yours faithfully,
M. GRINDLEY

(Managing Director),
Browsers Bookshops Limited,
125 High Street,
Brentwood, Essex.

October 9.

From Mr Peter Curwen

Sir, Once again you have published a letter (Mr Gibson, October 2) which informs your readers that the abolition of the net book agreement will result in fewer bookshops and fewer titles published. In the latter respect it is noteworthy that there are currently 500,000 titles available, of which remarkably few are stocked in a typical bookshop. This does not indicate that consumers are short of choice.

Furthermore, the proliferation of titles has resulted in short print runs, leading to ever-higher prices, which is hardly of benefit to consumers. It is often held that a reduction in titles would have severe consequences for the higher reaches of literature. I think it far more probable that there would be fewer gardening books.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CURWEN,
Sheffield Business School,
Pond Street,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

October 2.

From Mr Anthony Powell

Sir, Can anyone explain to me how my current copy of a classic paperback guide to compact discs published and printed in England but bought at full price in California, cost \$19.95, when here it is priced at £15.99 (approximately \$27)? The two prices are printed alongside each other on the cover.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY POWELL,
10 The Giebel, SE3.

From Mr Philip Green

Sir, Philip Green's letter (October 8) and others in a similar vein which have preceded it in your columns continue to ignore the fundamental reason why the introduction of a national lottery would not bring significant additional gambling turnover.

In fact, the new advertising and distribution freedoms which would inevitably accompany the introduction of a national lottery would simply result in expenditure being diverted from a variety of current gambling activities of which football pools are certain to be the worst-affected.

What little additional revenue a lottery may generate is likely to be drawn from lower-income groups whose higher propensity to purchase lottery tickets is well documented, most recently in a research study carried out by University College Dublin and relating to the impact of the Irish state lottery.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HUGHES,
Managing Director,
Vernon Pools,
Fortune House, Park Lane,
Liverpool, Merseyside.

October 9.

From Mr I. M. Davies-Llewellyn

Sir, Could the socks possibly be located in the "Bermuda triangle" of the sock world, which lies between the laundry-basket, the washing-machine and the tumble-dryer?

Yours faithfully,
I. M. DAVIES-LLEWELLYN,
9 Erwlas, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

From Mrs H. Rowland-Jones

Sir, Buy half a dozen pairs of identical socks and then the subsequent odd socks can be used to make three new pairs.

Yours faithfully,
H. ROWLAND-JONES,
9 Woodfield Road, Cophthorne,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

From Mr Alan Price-Talbot

Sir, An entrepreneur would gain much by opening a "sock exchange" and in so doing give new impetus to the "Footsy" index.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PRICE-TALBOT,
Lisvane House, Mill Road,
Lisvane, Cardiff.

CHOICE OF CRICKET TOUR OR OXFORD

From Lord Butterfield of Stechford

Sir, I was distressed to learn of Philip Weston being forced to choose between captaining



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 10: By Command of The Queen, Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr El Rasheed Abu-Shanab at 3 Cleveland Row, St James's, SW1 this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of the Sudan to the Court of St James's.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Lewin, KG, at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr Frank Carr in the Chapel of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 10: The Duchess of York, Patron of The Sick Children's Trust, this morning opened the Home's "Home from Home" in Butteshead Street, London E1.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* by the Travelling Opera Company at St Andrew's Hall, Norwich.

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
October 10: Princess Alexandra today visited West Sussex and was received by Major-General Sir Philip Ward (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex).

Her Royal Highness opened the Medical Education Centre at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, and the new wards and departments at Bognor Regis War Memorial Hospital.

Subsequently Princess Alexandra opened Duke Bernard House, Grand Avenue, Worthing.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 10: The Princess of Wales was represented by Mr Ted Unsworth at the memorial service for Mr Barry Richards at St Paul's, Knightsbridge.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will visit Ethicon, Sighthill Industrial Estate, Bellahouston Road, Edinburgh, at 11.45; as President of Barnardo's will attend the annual conference at MacRobert Pavilion, Edinburgh Exhibition and Trade Centre, Inglisland, at 12.55; and will visit Milestone House, 113 Octagon Road North, Edinburgh, at 2.30. The Duchess of York will open the National NEWPIN conference at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, WC1, at 10.00; and, as Patron of the Winchester Cathedral Trust, will attend a performance of *The Merry Widow* by the Pavilion Opera in the Great Hall, Winchester, at 7.20.

Prince Edward, as patron, will attend the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra's concert in the Corn Exchange, Cambridge, at 6.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend the finals of the RYA National Match Racing Championships at Quay, Mary Sailing Club, Ashford Royal Ashtead, Surrey, at 10.00, and, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Corps of Signals, will visit 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron at 12.25.

Princess Alexandra will attend the Poppy ball of the Royal British Legion at the International Hotel, W1, at 8.10.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 10: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon visited the Princess Margaret Royal Free School, Windsor, this afternoon.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire (Mr John Henderson).

The Hon. Mrs Wills was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 10: The Duchess of Kent today visited Norwich and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Bronchoscopy Suite and the Gastroenterology Suite at the West Norfolk Hospital, Bowthorpe Road and later, Patron of The Norfolk and Norwich Festival, visited the Norfolk Twenty Group Animal Exhibition at the Maddermarket Inn, St John's Alley, Norwich.

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OBITUARIES

NORMAN RYDON

Henry Norman Rydon, professor of chemistry at Exeter University, 1957-77, died in Exeter on September 12 aged 79. He was born on March 24, 1912.

NORMAN Rydon was an outstanding organic chemist who struggled constantly to balance his personal conviction that his research interests were of paramount importance with his desire to do the best generally for his department. His enthusiasm was disconcerting as he assumed implicitly that his colleagues were immersed in his current problem (they learnt successfully to dissemble so as not to disconcert him). He had boundless enthusiasm and energy and lived his work. A choleric temperament made him a daunting opponent, and if it helped him reach many of his objectives it must be said that it also made him enemies.

Educated at the Central Foundation School in London, he proceeded to Imperial College, there gaining a First in chemistry in 1931. Two years of research under Sir Patrick Linstead brought him a PhD. As demonstrator in organic chemistry at Birkbeck and Imperial colleges he was sufficiently distinguished himself in research to gain his DSc at 26. An 1851 Exhibition senior studentship took him to Oriel College, Oxford, and work with Sir Robert Robinson. At 27 he won the Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Society of Maccabees and two years later the Harrison Memorial Prize of the Chemical Society.

Rydon's chemical work covered a large range of topics. Beginning at Imperial College on unsaturated fatty acids, he moved during the war to the Chemical Defence Experimental Station, Porton Down, to work on vesicant agents and, in particular, agents for the decontamination of mustard gas. Later in his career he was to serve on a number of committees of the Ministry of Defence. For two years at the Lister Institute his study was the synthesis of antibacterial agents.

From a readership at Birkbeck he returned to Imperial College as associate professor.

In 1952 he went to the Manchester College of Science and Technology as professor of chemistry and director of the chemical laboratories.

Here among his preoccupations was an attempt to pro-



duce medicinal agents with which to control cancer. At Manchester, too, he turned to the chemistry of polypeptides, a topic which held his attention until his retirement.

At Exeter, where he became professor of chemistry in 1957, Rydon threw his energies into developing the chemistry department. Under the impetus of the Robbins expansion he built up the academic staff from seven to 22 and secured the establishment of three professorial chairs. The chemistry building, officially inaugurated in 1965, is a monument to the creative tension between Sir

to work on vesicant agents and, in particular, agents for the decontamination of mustard gas. Later in his career he was to serve on a number of committees of the Ministry of Defence. For two years at the Lister Institute his study was the synthesis of antibacterial agents.

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MICHAEL BATCHELOR

Michael Batchelor, a dancer and choreographer who was a soloist with the Royal Ballet and one of the founders of Dance Advance, died in Sacramento, California, on October 5 of an AIDS-related condition aged 34. He was born in Venezuela on April 23, 1957.

TALL, well proportioned, strikingly handsome and blessed with fair hair which made him stand out on stage, Michael Batchelor seemed set for a decent career in the mainstream of classical ballet. He joined the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden aged 17 after taking two leading roles in the annual Royal Ballet School matinee at Friday's Child (the part made for Nureyev) in Ashton's *Jazz Calendar*, and in a role made for him by Peter Wright in *Arpège*.

One of his earliest leading parts was Benvolio, in MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet*, in 1976, and in 1978 he was promoted to soloist ranking. He was given a variety of solo parts and, in time, progressed to dance Siegfried in *Swan Lake* and the title part in a revival of Robert Helpmann's *Hamlet*.

He was especially pleased at being selected by choreographers for parts in their new creations. These included Ashton on *Rhapsody*, MacMillan (one of the Hungarian officers in *Mayerling*) and Glen Tetley for *Dances of Albion*, besides the less established Michael Corder. Batchelor's own ambitions in choreography manifested themselves in several works he made for the Royal Ballet, Chorographic Group and elsewhere, including solos for Alessandra Ferri and



Maria Almeida and a duet for David Wall and Alfredo Thohorod.

Batchelor transferred in 1983 to Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet where David Bintley cast him for one of the leads in his new *Choros*. He also had the lead in Jennifer Jackson's *Common Ground*. But after not much more than a year Batchelor decided that he preferred to seek his career elsewhere.

Over the next four years he danced as guest with companies in Sacramento (where he had relatives), Portugal and Zimbabwe as well as in Britain with Northern Ballet Theatre and London

City Ballet. During this time he danced the major classics including *Giselle* and *The Nutcracker*, but at the other extreme he appeared with Tina Turner in her *Private Dancer* video. He also undertook some choreography.

In 1988, together with his former Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet colleagues Susan Crow and Jennifer Jackson, Batchelor was one of the founders and directors of Dance Advance, a small company set up to put classical ballet to new uses in specially-created works. With them he was choreographer of several ballets among them one for the Queen Elizabeth Hall set to Tippett's second string quartet, and two in collaboration with the composer Gardiner. Among his roles with Dance Advance the most prominent was the lead in *Sea of Sorrows*, a kaleidoscopic treatment of the Hamlet story made for them by Kenneth MacMillan. He was also active in the group's educational work.

His last new role was in October last, portraying Marion Tait as guest in André Prokofiev's *Cinderella* in Tokyo. This year he decided to stop dancing, and had settled in Sacramento where he proposed to study history and psychology at university. He was always a great reader with a wide range of interests; less seriously, he boasted of having the third largest collection of teddy bears in the world. His colleagues found him a brave, sensitive and inspiring collaborator and were shocked at the sudden decline in his health which abruptly cut off his future hopes.

MICHEL SOUTTER

Michel Soutter, film director, died on September 10 aged 59 in Geneva. He was born there on June 2, 1932.

TO BRITISH cinephiles, Michel Soutter remained the most whimsical of the French-language directors who helped put Swiss cinema on the map in the late Sixties and Seventies. The output of Alain Tanner and Claude Goretta, Soutter's colleagues in the Geneva production company Groupe 5, regularly found international distribution; Soutter's work rarely strayed outside Switzerland, France, and the festival circuit. Yet he blazed a trail.

The young University of Exeter enjoyed the services of a distinguished vice-chancellor, Sir James Cook himself a chemist, and a small but powerful professoriate, amongst whom Rydon was an outstanding figure. He served the university in many capacities, notably as deputy vice-chancellor (1973-1975), and as public orator (1977). In developing cross-faculty studies he was largely responsible for creating the popular combined honours degree in architecture.

Rydon was extraordinarily

well-read, a fact which he rarely chose to reveal. He did however take great delight in writing to *The Times* to point out to Sir Denis Page that Pope's *Homer*, a 1760 edition of which he owned, threw light on the "Enigma of Homer's Axes".

If Rydon's virtues were those of enthusiasm and boundless energy, these were also to some extent his shortcomings. Speaking on the occasion of his retirement in a remarkable passage of self-criticism, he regretted that he had not perhaps lived up to his early promise. If that were so, it was because he had thrown himself so completely into the innumerable tasks which presented themselves in a growing university.

Norman Rydon's life was

touched by tragedy; his first two wives predeceased him.

To those who knew him well

his toughness of spirit under

the worst circumstances was

inspiring. At the end of his life,

his *Meldola* and *Harrison*

medals were his most treasured possessions. His third

marriage was dissolved and he

is survived by his daughter,

Angela, of his first marriage.

obstinately low-budget, shot in black-and-white on film. But he steadily gained recognition. *Les Arpenteurs* – an airy divertissement involving a building, surveyor, young love and mistaken identities – was the official Swiss competition entry at the 1972 Cannes Film Festival.

The Cannes exposure further boosted his standing. *L'Espresso* (1973) benefited from colour, French finance and Jean-Louis Trintignant, whose admiration for Soutter's early films led him to take a small part. Trintignant commented on his association with *Repréhensions* (1977), an隽ie drama about a director's problems preparing a film of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* (Soutter's own family was of Russian origin).

Soutter's early features had been marked by long shots and an unobtrusive camera; with *Repréhensions* his visual style became more flexible. But he continued to favour criss-crossing plots and characters as a means of penetrating the labyrinth of human relationships. Among later films, *L'Amour des femmes* (1981) was particularly successful, weaving together four lonely men and their affairs with women.

Soutter continued to work in television. He also directed intermittently in the theatre, staging plays by Max Frisch. *Jarry's Ubu Roi* and, in 1975, his own musical fantasy, *Le Schubert qui déçoit*.

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In 1968, emboldened by *La Lune avec les denus*, Soutter joined Tanner, Goretta, Jean-Jacques Roy and Jean-Louis Lagrange in a new venture, Groupe 5; for a time the company led Swiss cinema's artistic advance until financial problems cut into the industry at the end of the Seventies. At first Soutter's work remained

in television. He also directed intermittently in the theatre, staging plays by Max Frisch.

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His services to the Building Societies Institute were real and valuable. He was honorary examiner in "Elements of English Law" for the institute's examinations in 1939

and on his return from war service he lectured at the institute's post-war refresher courses for returning ex-service personnel.

Roy Fuller was also chair-

man of the legal advisory committee of the Building Societies' Association and for some years legal corre-

spondent of the Building Societies' Gazette.

ROY FULLER

E.C.L. writes:

FOLLOWING your sensitive obituary of Roy Fuller (September 28), I would like to add that I came to know him when I was secretary of the Chartered Building Societies Institute. I well remember during the early part of the war when Roy visited us at our house in New Malden and not finding us at home was directed round to the back of the property where a piece of waste land was opened up and my wife and I were busily taking up the grassland to create a vegetable plot. Roy

expressed amazement at the fact that his major

pend such energy on such a task!

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and on his return from war service he lectured at the institute's post-war refresher courses for returning ex-service personnel.

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spondent of the Building Societies' Gazette.

The fact that his major

SIR RAYMOND BROWN

J.T.W. Martin writes:

YOUR obituary of Sir Raymond Brown (September 16

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 Breakfast News
9.35 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series
9.30 Conservative Party Conference. Live coverage of the last day's proceedings during which the delegates have the opportunity to discuss a topic of their own choice
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 The Family News. Cartoon adventures (r)
10.35 Conservative Party Conference. Further live coverage from Blackpool including the address by Chris Patten, the party chairman. With news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00
12.15 Keep Taking the Petals. A documentary examination of the growth of Asian medicine in Britain (r) 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) 1.50 Lifeline (r)
2.00 Sport on Friday. The line-up (subject to alteration): Golf: quarter-final action from the Dunhill Cup; and Racing from Ascot: the 2.30, 3.00 and 3.40 races. The 4.15 race is covered on BBC2, along with polo and show jumping
3.50 Pingu. Animated adventures of a clumsy penguin 3.55 The Little Green Planet Show. The fifth of a six-part science series for children (s) 4.10 The Legend of Prince Valiant. Animated fantasy series about a young hero's quest for legendary Camelot (s) 4.35 Record Breakers presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. Includes an attempt to break the record for travelling through the 29 locks of the Caen Hill lock on the Kennet and Avon canal between Fonthill Lock and Devizes Bridge Lock
5.00 Newsworld 5.10 Grange Hill (r). (Ceefax) (s)
5.25 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Melvin Stewart. Weather
6.30 Reporting Scotland. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
6.55 Friday Sportscene presented by Hazel Irvine and Rob MacLean. Previews of Scotland's crucial game with Ireland in the rugby world cup; and the football team's European cup match against Romania
7.20 The Insiders. Gordon Campbell, in the company of local actress and singer Alison Burns, explores lesser-known Dundee
7.50 The Scottish Chart. The best-selling pop records
8.00 The Russ Abbot Show. Another collection of madcap comedy sketches. With Les Dennis, Bella Emborg and Sherrie Hewson. (Ceefax) (s)
8.30 Up the Up. The last of the Jane comedy series starring Dennis Waterman as a self-made millionaire with domestic difficulties. (Ceefax) (s)
8.40 Nine O'Clock News with Mervyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Casualty. The format of half a dozen storylines, all converging on the hard-pressed hospital casualty department, has become a bit of a formula but strong writing and an urgent pace usually carry it off. This week the medics have to deal with an innocent bystander who is injured when a car bomb placed by animal rights activists explodes at the wrong time. (Ceefax) (s)



Success in a minor key? Malcolm Arnold reassessed (10.20pm)

10.20 Omnibus: Malcolm Arnold at 70.

● CHOICE: Instead of doing what arts documentaries often do, which is to promote their subject's latest creation, Kris Ruemann's study of Malcolm Arnold has nothing to sell but a lot to discuss. Far from celebrating Arnold's latest work, the Ninth Symphony, the programme reminds us that it was written five years ago and has still to be given a professional performance. The central question is why Arnold's reputation is not higher. The argument ranges over the quality of his music and whether it has fallen out of fashion and looks for pointers in the composer's own history, his mental breakdowns, his alcoholism and suicide attempts. His output has been prodigious: in six years he composed 81 film scores, as well as important orchestral pieces. He won an Oscar for *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. But critics have been vitriolic. At 70 Arnold looks nearer 80 and says he wishes he had not lived so long

11.10 Horse of the Year Show introduced by David Vine from the Wembly Arenas, featuring the Henderson Masters

12.20am Wogan. Tonight's guests include Frank Bruno, Les Dawson and model Naomi Campbell. Music is from singers Roberta Flack and Maxi Priest 12.55 Weather

1.40am Weather

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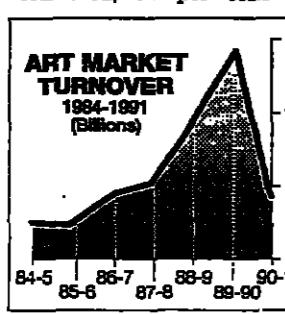
Art market turnover slumps 70%

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE turnover of world art auctions fell by 70 per cent in the year to July 31, and the number of works sold dropped by nearly a third, according to figures compiled by the Art Sales Index database. The index, which is the first impartial analysis of the art market since the boom collapsed at the end of 1990, shows that the auction turnover fell from £2,814 million in the 1989-90 season to £844 million.

The number of works sold has gone down from 117,000 to 32,000. Sales for more than £1 million fell from 369 in 1989-90 to 73. The average price for works fell from £23,959 to £10,217.

Richard Hislop, managing editor of the index, said the results were a turning point in the history of the art market, and would probably be used as a marker against which future auction turnover will be measured, rather like changing the base year on the retail prices index. The Art Market Index compiled its statistics from 1,800 sales held by 320 auctioneers in 24 countries. A total of 82,300 oil paintings, drawings and sculptures were monitored, 94 per cent of

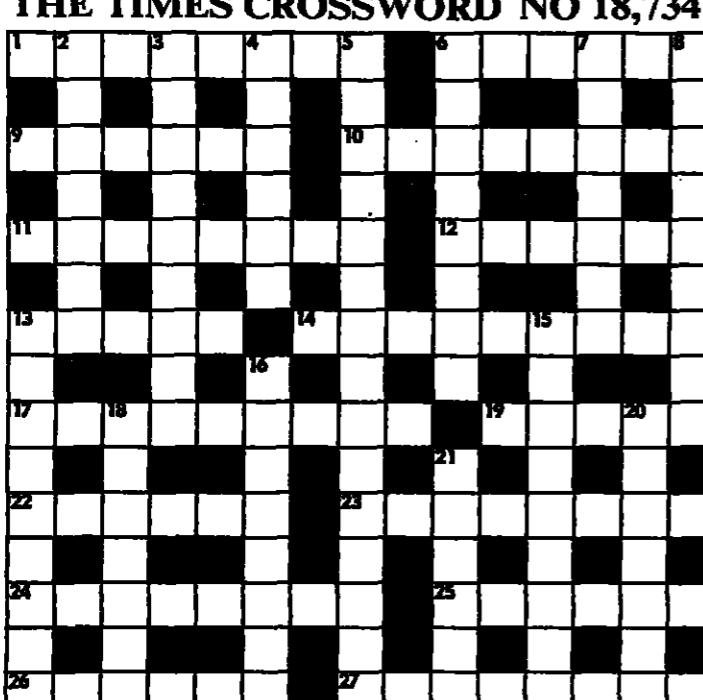


Reaching for the throat at backstabbers' ball

Continued from page 1
There were the little compliments to previous, humbler speakers in the debate ("... and how eloquently Nick Brown from Derby described it to us"); "Maureen Hicks had her finger on the button"; "How right Barbara Ashton-Ford was!"). There were the interested enquiries about our own concerns — would we like a new county created, or an old one removed? And then the slow build-up: "We have a new approach" ... Oh, Michael, those wandering hands ... "Prime minister: when you fire the starting gun..."

There you go again, Michael.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,734



STENCH TWO FACED
TAH HOA UVE
AUSTERE ROSTRUM
RT CRCT ALLO
BREAK SEVEN ACTS
ON P SPA
ANDROID TURN OFF
RIE E O I
DIVINES RAMBLER
ET M EIS
STAND CONTINGENT
C KIA A S L
RUSSIAN GEDILLA
JO E O E O D
PANGLOSS DROWSY

23. "Charm" is a refined, old-fashioned word (8).
24. Verging on a head-on attack (8).
25. They may come home very late indeed in Hereford, say (6).
26. He believes decent finally leads to robbery (6).
27. The sort of censure that is worthless (8).
DOWN:
2. The art of speaking in a small chapel (7).
3. Cowardly line of people on horse? (9).
4. Cut out about school (6).
5. Knock-out drops a man caught hunting initially (8-).
6. The animals to check rising grass (8).
7. Paper in the Algarve is a botch-pot (7).
8. Share acquired for its yield, presumably (9).
13. Exceptional diamond (9).
15. It used to be very hot indeed in Georgia's cloak (3-6).
16. He gets the wind up — a mistral, perhaps? (8).
18. Decoy peace in our time? Quite the opposite (7).
20. One slip is bad in a short foreign letter (7).
21. Headgear often worn by Ben? (3-3).

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Concise Crossword, page 19

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The changing face of British leadership

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Chris Patten and Jack Cunningham of the next century might be deploying a powerful new technology for manipulating the public image of their leaders, researchers said yesterday.

This series of prime ministerial images might be a new and even disturbing dawn, courtesy of computerised video photography and psychological research. Once the camera was said never to lie and the negatives were available to prove it.

In this new era of electronically manipulated images, able to be made and relayed round the globe in seconds, faces can echo the features of others or reflect traits conceived as intelligent or stupid, caring or strict.

"Most people never meet the prime minister; their images come from television and photographs," said Paul Wombell, curator of the Impressions Gallery, York.

Theoretically Neil Kinnock or Paddy Ashdown could, with the technology, attempt to woo wavering Conservative voters by adding to their media images traits of Winston Churchill, suggested Mr Wombell, editor of *Photovideo*, an Arts Council-sponsored study of the subject.

His views are echoed by Philip Benson, a researcher in psychology at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, who created the sequence of images with David Perrett.

"When you look at the images which are closer to the Thatcher end, where you have got, say, 25 per cent of Major in there, you are adding some of his characteristics. There is some subconscious reaction to this ... it is something we are starting to look at," said Mr Benson, adding that once programmed, the computer produced the sequence in 40 seconds.

For political leaders to exploit this technology on any large scale would require the collusion of the mass media. What worries some experts is that practices are emerging by default which undermine the once-sacred position of photography making the manipulation of images less of a professional crime.

Photographers would once be dispatched to an event or a disaster leading to a multiplicity of points of view, argues Fred Ritchin, an expert in documentary making, electronic photography and a lecturer at New York university, USA.

As seen during the Gulf war, video images from a single source are increasingly being used by other television stations or "frame grabbed" and used by newspapers. Mr



Facing the future: in this sequence of prime ministers from Churchill top, and left to right, through Attlee, Churchill, Eden, Macmillan, Home, Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher and Major, the computer demonstrates how voters might be persuaded to see just what they want to see in the politicians of the day

Ritchin cites the case of a newspaper which, compiled from eyewitness reports, put a "photograph" of an aircraft on its front page made by a computer.

"National Geographic, in search of a vertical image, used a computer to rotate one of the pyramids of Giza behind another. The editor referred to it simply as a retroactive repositioning of the photographer a few feet to one side," said Mr Ritchin.

At the very least, Mr Wombell believes the technology might lead to political leaders on a busy schedule turning to portable computers carrying electronic identity kits to suit every occasion.

With the press of a button, preprogrammed images could be summoned up complete with dress, hair and make-up styles which the leader will copy.

Some of the styles might be soft and caring and suitable, for a say a trip to a school or a health service speech, with other, harder, ones for conference rousing attacks on the opposition.

Photovideo: Photography in the Age of the Computer. Published by Rivers Oram Press. Price £11.95. P/B video, a travelling exhibition at the Photographer's Gallery, London, November 1.

One director said: "It's as if they're trying to recreate the current NHS situation in museums. Many of us have already contracted out as far as we dare in terms of such things as catering, and it's hard to see what else we can do." The worry is that those which do not submit satisfactory privatisation proposals will find their grants cut.

Max Hethcote, president of the Museums Association and director of the Museum of London which is partly funded by the OAL, said: "This implies that museums' management and boards of trustees are not competent to manage their affairs. It strikes at the heart of the curatorial function, and nothing seems to be left for us to do except stores management and the barest curatorial duties."

Mr Henderson has asked museums to report on progress in their corporate plans due to be submitted next spring.

Museums urged to put more out to contract

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL museums and galleries have been asked by the Office of Arts and Libraries to consider privatisation going "deep into the heart of the curatorial function," according to one director, and to report on proposals by the end of this month. Directors of the museums and galleries funded by OAL received a letter this week from Charles Henderson, the head of the office, and a copy has been received by *The Times*.

Accompanying it is a checklist of "candidate services for contracting-out" which includes security, research, training, purchasing, payroll, administration, education, exhibitions, conservation, and design and display, all functions considered intrinsically internal museum operations.

The letter's directive is in line with a white paper, to be published this autumn, setting out government intentions on extending market testing and the contracting-out of functions. A spokesman for the OAL said: "This is standard government policy. It's what local government has been required to do in the interest of efficiency, cost-effectiveness and the reduction of bureaucracy," he said. "No museum is being given an instruction here. They are getting an opportunity to find ways of improving efficiency and perhaps saving money from their budgets to spend on other things."

One director said: "It's as if they're trying to recreate the current NHS situation in museums. Many of us have already contracted out as far as we dare in terms of such things as catering, and it's hard to see what else we can do." The worry is that those which do not submit satisfactory privatisation proposals will find their grants cut.

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Brent
oppose

MPs will examine Channel rail link details

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1
handful of marginal seats in Kent and south London, and of transferring uncertainty and property blight from one part of London to another.

The London regional passenger committee, the rail watchdog, said that the de-

cision to enter London from the east had isolated Waterloo, making construction of the new £120 million Channel terminal quite pointless. Tony Hart, leader of Kent county council, said that tens of thousands of commuters in Kent, Sussex and Surrey now

have little prospect of ever seeing an improvement in rail services into central London.

MPs and residents along the new eastern approach fear that the government's decision has simply transferred the blight and uncertainty from south to east London. The extent of the

route's environmental impact has yet to be assessed. But Rainham marshes, London's largest site of special scientific interest, could be affected by the new line. British Rail's proposal was criticised because it relied on existing lines to carry freight through south London to yards in west London. These lines will still have to be used for freight in the early years of the new scheme, but if the eastern approach is developed, the continental freight trains will have to be routed on an upgraded north London line.

London 6.17 pm to 7.19 am
Bristol 6.27 pm to 7.28 am
Edinburgh 6.55 pm to 7.57 am
Manchester 6.25 pm to 7.29 am
Penzance 6.40 pm to 7.39 am

7.17 pm Sun rise 7.17 pm Sun sets 8.17 pm

7.45 am Moon rises 7.45 am Moon sets 7.20 pm

7.15 pm Tide in 1m-3.20m

7.15 pm Wednesday 6.17 pm yesterday

Museum urged to put more out to contract

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- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 33
- SPORT 35-40

23

Business Editor
John Bell

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 1991

WEEKEND MONEY TOMORROW

PROFILE

Lord
Weinstock
of
Bowden,
the chairman
of GEC
and a captain
of British
industry for 30 years, is
shy, secretive and
unyielding. He shuns
personal publicity but
gives a rare interview to
Carol Leonard

CASH AND RUN

Disputed withdrawals from cash dispensers are on the increase yet banks and building societies deny firmly that "phantom" withdrawals can occur. Lindsay Cook reports

PENALTY CLAUSE

Homebuyers considering fixed-rate mortgages need to know what the penalty might be for early redemption. One couple is having to pay £4,600

Brent plan opposed

COUNT Alexei Orlov, head of the Brent Walker small shareholders' action committee, which claims to speak for 14 per cent of the shares, is writing to all 8,000 shareholders, asking them to oppose the refinancing plan still being thrashed out by Brent's banks and bondholders.

Count Orlov has called a shareholders' meeting for tomorrow week, at which he will indicate what support he has gained from the small shareholders. He claims the terms on offer to shareholders from the banks' reconstruction offer them nothing and are equivalent to liquidation.

Unpalatable truth, page 25

THE MARKET
US dollar 1.7177 (+0.0072)
German mark 2.9055 (-0.0015)
Exchange index 90.3 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCKMARKET
FT 30 share 1956.4 (-19.3)
FT-SE 100 2570.8 (-13.3)
New York Dow Jones 2943.87 (-2.45)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 1422.53
Closed

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Steerley 286p (+10p)
Welcome 715p (+15p)
Vodafone 373p (+15p)
Medeva 224p (+15p)
Nu-Swift 360p (+15p)
Allied Textiles 442p (+14p)
FALLS:
Taylor Woodrow 160p (-10p)
Rank Org 651p (-10p)
Brockley Group 5281p (-13p)
ADT 231p (-11p)
Glymed 469p (-15p)
Fisons 1671p (-10p)
G Wimpey 157p (-10p)
Sohelby 628p (-15p)
Unilever 3781p (-15p)
MB-Cardon 775p (-5p)
BOC 5811p (-21p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10.1%
3-month Interbank 10.1-10.5%
3-month eligible bills: 10.1-10%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 5.1-5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 5.02-5.01%
30-year bonds 101.3-101.2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ 1.7155 E 5.7155
DM 2.8059 DM 1.8940
Swf 12.5432 Swf 10.9900
Ff 17.7835 Ff 15.7835
Yen 122.53 Yen 120.35
\$ 4.1924 \$ 4.1884
ECU 10.70489 SDR 0.796718
ECU 1.418824 SDR 1.255149

London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$359.55 pm \$359.50
close \$359.20-\$359.70 (020-80-
210.10)
New York: Comex \$359.45-\$359.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) £22.20 bbl (322.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 August (1987-100)

* Denotes midday trading price

Hawker fights BTR bid with massive restructuring

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HAWKER Siddeley, the electrical engineering group endeavouring to escape a £1.5 billion takeover bid by the BTR conglomerate, yesterday detailed plans to sell 60 per cent of its business.

In its first defence document, Hawker said it plans to concentrate on manufacturing electric motors and batteries, and on servicing aircraft engines. Over the next four years, it aims to withdraw from electric power, railway equipment, instruments and controls, and general engineering. The businesses earmarked for disposal have annual

sales of £1.28 billion and employ 28,000 people worldwide.

Sir Peter Baxendale, Hawker's chairman, said: "We have a very clear idea of where we are heading and we need no help from BTR in getting there." He confirmed that by December, Hawker's drive for efficiency will have cost the jobs of 8,000 employees in two years.

Alan Jackson, the chief executive of BTR, said: "Hawker's management seems to have lost its nerve." He added: "The shareholders should question the timing and scale of the disposal programme."

The scale of the restructuring, which the bid has forced Hawker to

detail, is breathtaking. Sir Peter said the strategy had been approved by his board last November, but details had been kept secret to ease disposal negotiations, and to avoid unsettling customers and employees.

The disposal programme had been delayed by the recession, however, which made it harder to complete deals, and Hawker was determined to improve the performance of many of its businesses to achieve a better price for them.

By the end of 1995, however, Hawker aimed to emerge as a world player in its chosen areas. Cash released by disposals would go to

loying 15,000 people, by organic development and acquisition.

Alan Watkins, Hawker's chief executive, said the group had already made four acquisitions in its new core area, totalling £160 million and had cut operating costs by £100 million. He said further measures should increase efficiency by 30 per cent and free another £200 million from work in progress and stocks.

In his message to shareholders, Sir Peter said: "BTR's bid takes no account of the value of these actions. Its timing is calculated to deprive you of the benefits of economic recovery."

Dr Watkins also attacked BTR's

strategy. "The bid for Hawker Siddeley exposes BTR's pretensions to greater focus as a sham and shows BTR for what it is: 1980s style, acquisition-led, accounting-driven conglomerate," he said.

Mr Jackson scoffed at the scale of disposals, however. "We would not envisage anything like that," he said. BTR would review the strengths and weaknesses of Hawker's diverse portfolio of businesses once it gained control.

BTR shares lost 2p to 404p, while Hawker was down 3p at 736p, 12p ahead of BTR's offer.

Drastic surgery, page 25

Lilley aims to loosen British Gas grip

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government is seeking to throw the gas market wide open to competition. It wants to force British Gas to put its pipeline network into an arms-length company, surrender more of its gas supplies to competitors, and compete with rivals to supply domestic customers.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said yesterday that an office of fair trading enquiry had concluded that a monopoly reference on gas was justified, but held back from a reference to see whether British Gas would voluntarily negotiate the competition the government wants.

Yesterday, the government backed the OFT's report on developments in the gas market since 1989, when BG undertook to assist the development of competition.

Mr Lilley said he hoped BG would be prepared to discuss the issues with Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading. Mr Lilley gave warning that the government would consider legislative changes to stimulate competition in gas.

The OFT review, the conclusions of which are largely in line with the drive for greater competition urged by Ofgas, the gas regulator, which welcomed the report, found that there was, as yet, little real competition in the gas market, despite steps taken after the monopolies commission report on the industry in 1988. The OFT report said that although new suppliers had entered the gas market, they were unlikely to have more than a 4.5 per cent share of it in the next few years.

Sir Gordon will ask BG to release quickly to other gas suppliers gas for which they have already contracted, and will ask BG to revise last year's undertaking not to bid for more than 90 per cent of new gas supplies coming on to the market.

BG received the OFT report at the same time as it was published, and officials were clearly annoyed that such extensive changes and government pressure was being applied on the company with little notice. BG was not ready to make any comment last night.

Comment, page 25

Young 'tried to hide illegal aid to BAe'

By OUR CITY STAFF

LORD Young, the former trade secretary, tried to hide millions of pounds in illegal government aid to British Aerospace as part of the deal to privatise Rover, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg heard yesterday.

British Aerospace and Rover are appealing against a European Commission order to repay £44.4 million of so-called sweeteners to the British government. The court was told that during negotiations in 1988 Lord Young offered British Aerospace concessions worth £44.4 million to encourage it to pay £150 million for the car group.

The court was also told that Lord Young advised Professor Roland Smith, the former British Aerospace chairman, in writing to keep things quiet or risk alerting the European Commission.

The commission was closely involved in the terms of the takeover. It set conditions for the sale that included an instruction that the government "does not alter the proposed terms of sale as communicated to the Commission".

But Thomas Cusack, commission solicitor, told the court that three financial con-

cessions granted by the government were not covered by the agreement with Brussels. They were a £9.5 million payment to BAe covering the purchase cost of minority shares in Rover, a £1.5 million handout to Rover covering external advice costs linked to the sale, and a benefit to BAe estimated at £33.4 million resulting from the deferral of the sale price payment by 20 months from August 12, 1988.

Jeremy Lever, QC, for BAe and Rover, urged the court to annul the commission demand for repayment because the companies were innocent parties. He said BAe believed it was honouring the agreement reached between the government and the commission.

But Mr Cusack told the court BAe was "perfectly well informed" in summer 1988 about what was going on.

Then he produced the letter sent by Lord Young to Professor Smith. In it, Lord Young said: "On deferment of payment of the £150 million I can offer three possibilities, in ascending order of risk that the deferment will be picked up by the European Commission. In any case they might require payment of the notional interest saved."

He suggested three dates for final payment and then went

The court's verdict is ex-
pected on December 4.



Written word: Lord Young, whose letter to Professor Smith was read in court

New W&M bid spurned

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH



Greig: critical

represented a premium of 69 per cent over the closing Invergordon share price of 163p on the day before the original offer was announced, and 8.2 times net asset value.

Michael Lunn, chairman and chief executive, said: "Our increased offer for Invergordon is final. It places a very generous valuation on Invergordon given its vulnerability on its own as a commodity business with no

major brands. Without our offer the Invergordon share price is likely to fall significantly," Chris Greig, Invergordon's managing director, described the 275p offer as typical of W&M's "dithering" approach. "It takes no account of the strategic value of the company or of its performance," he said.

Dr Greig said it was possible that another bidder could emerge, but refused to comment on approaches he might have received. "Our strategy is to remain independent," he said.

Mr Lunn said that if the offer succeeded, the merged business would be based in Scotland and would be the third-largest company in the Scotch whisky industry.

"The merger would create significant opportunities for the long-term development of the combined business and for its employees and would provide benefits for the Scottish economy."

Tempus, page 26

Lamont promise steadies pound

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH assurance from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that he would keep the pound strong within the exchange rate mechanism steadied the currency.

Foreign exchange market splits at the Conservative party conference appeared to have subsided after Margaret Thatcher's appearance, improving sentiment for sterling.

The pound remained at the bottom of the ERM grid, but improved 0.1 overall to 90.3 and finished a third of a pence higher at DM2.9069. At 5pm, it was half a cent higher at \$1.7155, a cent below its best.

Mr Lamont, speaking on BBC radio's *Today* programme, made it clear that he expected to have time to reflect on the budget before the next election. He said Britain had "turned the corner". All the evidence indicated

Gatt hopes, page 26



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Panel 'ineffectual' in Guinness bid battle

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE takeover panel, one of the City's principal regulatory bodies, was an "ineffectual referee" during a bitter bid battle between Guinness and Argyll, the supermarket chain, a court heard yesterday.

Oliver Roux, former Guinness finance director, told Southwark Crown Court that when Guinness asked the panel for help in stopping its rival's "ridiculous" anti-Guinness advertising campaign, it said it could not help. Instead, the panel advised the company to take its own legal action and sue Argyll.

During cross-examination by David Hood, counsel for Lord Spens, Mr Roux said both bidders in the battle to control Distillers, the Scottish drinks group,

were "aggressive". He said: "And the panel was, it looked to me, rather an ineffectual referee."

An example had been its inability to stop Argyll's "ridiculous" advertising campaign involving "knocking copy" directed at Guinness, but the panel said it was unable to help and advised Guinness to pursue its own legal remedy.

Mr Roux said it cost Argyll shareholders "a lot of money" and did not achieve anything positive. Mr Hood: "Millions of pounds?" Mr Roux: "Yes."

Mr Roux agreed that it was an example of Guinness telling the panel there was something wrong and it replying: "Go off and take your own legal action".

Roger Seelig, aged 46, former corporate finance director at Morgan Grenfell, denies two charges of false

NESS ROUNDUP
sells shares
JS drug firm

The citizen envisaged in the prime minister's vaunted charter is increasingly emerging as a corporate citizen. This week, Peter Lilley's trade department has offered plans to increase competition in gas and water, to be incorporated in charter laws. In both cases, the competition envisaged is almost exclusively for the business of industrial and commercial customers. Millions of individual citizens will, however, be affected. They are the mass of the public who were solicited to buy utilities from government and whose investments the same government now seeks to damage.

They seem to have ceased to be citizens in the theoretical terms of the charter. By investing a few hundred pounds, Sid has somehow become a monopoly producer interest. This was surely not the original aim of the drive for mass share ownership. Was it not, rather, supposed to induce the citizenry to identify more closely with the welfare of the great enterprises of the land?

The proposals Mr Lilley has now accepted to curb British Gas are the most important example

yet of this changed perspective. The regulatory regime on which British Gas was privatised in 1986 was clearly lax, as *The Times* then argued. The framework for monopoly was preserved and little protection given to industrial customers.

This settlement is now attributed to the forceful powers of Sir Denis Cooke, then chairman of British Gas, a towering Victorian figure who had turned the corporation round from bureaucratic mire to robust prosperity. Yet the government had not hesitated to sell the corporation's oil interests over Sir Denis's struggling body.

The arguments for a more competitive structure were, and are, strong, especially for a separated transmission system to aid alternative suppliers. They were fully considered but rejected by the government, which wanted to ensure a trouble-free sale.

The government was also concerned at a potential shortage

COMMENT

Sid becomes a loser at Monopoly

of gas and wanted to secure cheap supplies for the public.

Little has changed to alter the arguments since, least of all the government, except that money from the sale of British Gas has been safely tucked away. True, the subsequent restructuring of electricity promoted a new demand for gas, which has been supplied competitively under the 1988 monopolies commission rules. The new measures aim to ensure that some of British Gas's share of the wider industrial/commercial market is transferred to competitors. British Gas will be forced to divest important assets, in the form of gas supply contracts, to competitors. Success implies damage to British Gas.

The message from the water industry is that utilities will

continue to be under pressure so long as they deliver much real dividend growth to shareholders. The 6 per cent dividend yield on British Gas shares to some extent reflects this. The corporation must use cash flow from its main network to build low-yielding, non-regulated assets abroad.

The same cannot be said of BT, whose shares are on a comparable yield to an index-linked bond that carries none of the regulatory risk. Ordinary citizens are now being entreated to consider investing more in BT. When the time comes next month, they should remember the government's gas initiative. Industrial pressure groups are pressing for a restructuring of BT on comparable lines in 1993. Heightened regulation has a competitive momentum of its own. Changes in the regime for

one utility now tend to be foisted on all, requiring a permanent discount for political risk.

Bank audit

The Bank of England has put its weight behind accounting reform with a conviction that will have some practitioners looking at their hands in embarrassment. Pen Kent, the Bank's associate director responsible for corporate affairs, argued in a speech yesterday that "auditors have sometimes not been nearly robust enough to resist accounting practices adopted by company boards which are technically within the standards but have served to hide rather than provide information".

The complaint is diplomatically attributed to others, but the message is clear. The Bank wants to back the Financial Reporting Council's efforts to

limit the discretion of management to choose misleading accounting techniques and to ensure that the same treatments are used by similar companies, even though the board rather than auditors is responsible for creative accounts.

The auditors come in because the big accounting firms have industrial specialties and often audit accounts of several companies in the same industry. Accounting standards are being tightened, but auditors must ultimately be the channel for achieving comparability.

The auditors receive support from the Bank for their campaign to reduce expectations of the accuracy or usefulness of accounts. Accounts have to be interpreted, says Mr Kent. Even City analysts, who would appear among the most sophisticated users of accounts, have poor knowledge, fail to ask intelligent questions and have to be spoon-fed by management.

The logic, however, points to auditors enhancing their role. Reducing expectations of users too far will ultimately lead to a dead end.

Doctor prescribes drastic surgery for Hawker's focusing problem

Ross Tieman
examines the
radical restyling
plans intended
to give Hawker
Siddeley a new
identity

HAWKER Siddeley, the engineering group under takeover threat from BTR, has embarked on one of the most radical reshapes in British corporate history.

Even the 1977 nationalisation of Hawker's aerospace and dynamics interests, accounting at the time for half of profits, pales in comparison with the plans outlined yesterday by Alan Watkins, Hawker's chief executive.

Over the next four years, if Hawker escapes takeover, Dr Watkins means to sell businesses accounting for 60 per cent of group turnover: 28,000 employees around the globe will find themselves with new bosses, very few of whom are likely to be British.

Cash from the disposals is intended to finance acquisitions which will enable the group to build up its three most successful business groups — electric motors, batteries and aero-engine maintenance — which together employ 15,000.

That, at least, is the theory. The strategy confirms the long, and widely-held view that Hawker Siddeley is an ill-focused collection of businesses long overdue for surgery, but it also opens up a debate about whether it is better to focus on businesses capable of achieving a strong position in global markets, or to rely on management skills to produce results within a broader portfolio.

Only two questions need now trouble Hawker shareholders. Who will carry through the restructuring best? And is BTR willing to pay an adequate price for the assets? For those who depend upon Hawker for their livelihoods,



Kill or cure: Alan Watkins plans to sell 60 per cent of Hawker's present business

the choice between Dr Watkins's global focus and the BTR approach of conglomerate management is crucial.

To understand the plight of Hawker, it is important to cast back to the dismemberment of the late Seventies. The government took Hawker's aerospace business, paid £107.8 million in compensation and put it together with the British Aircraft Corporation (simultaneously nationalised from the ownership of Vickers and the General Electric Company) to form British Aerospace.

Hawker thought of handing the compensation to shareholders, but decided instead to spend it on acquisitions including diesel engines and electrical engineering. In the mid-Eighties, however, when business worldwide embarked on a process of reorganisation and concentration, and ambitious, sometimes over-ambitious managers clambered to the top of British industry, Hawker shilly-shallied. Instead of acquiring, integrating and expanding, it merely acquired.

When, in 1989, Dr Watkins was appointed chief executive from Lucas, the company publicly acknowledged that it had to put itself in order. Yet two years later, little change is apparent. The restructuring plan de-

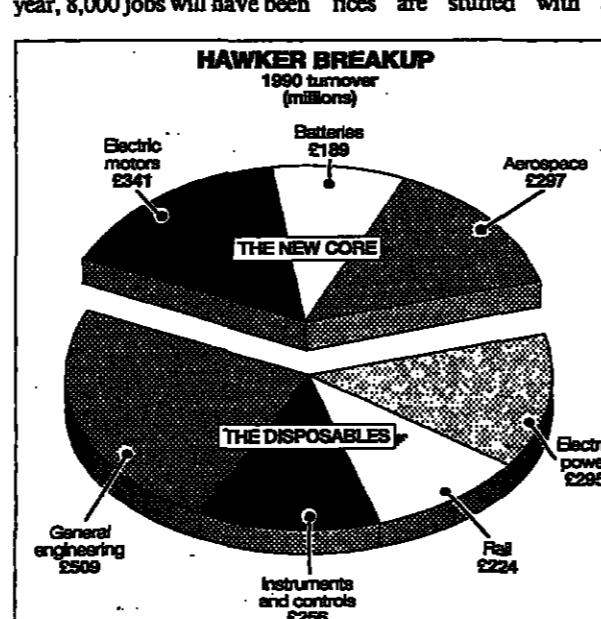
tailed as part of Hawker's defence yesterday was approved by the board a year ago, but only general pointers were released, to avoid prejudicing disposal and acquisition negotiations.

A recession is a bad time to buy and sell assets. Although 20 of Hawker's 90 businesses have been sold, Dr Watkins has divided his efforts between disposal talks and trying to make what he has got run better. By the end of this year, 8,000 jobs will have been

shed worldwide as Dr Watkins and his team try to drive up efficiency.

Despite its unimpressive profit record, Hawker unquestionably has some good businesses. In electric motors, the company dominates the UK market and is equal first in Europe, with a credible position in America. The worldwide market is growing

as car makers put more and more gadgets on their vehicles, and homes and offices are stuffed with air



Water under the bridge

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

SIR Marcus Fox, the Conservative MP for Shipley, Yorkshire, may have to endure some light-hearted ribbing from colleagues at the party conference in Blackpool today over his taste in bottled mineral water. In May, he signed up as a director of Langdale Spring, a Norton, North Yorkshire, company that sells bottled water from the North York moors to health-conscious consumers. Barely five months later, however, the company has gone bust. To make matters even more embarrassing for the party, Langdale Spring, run by Tim Riffen, a former film editor for Yorkshire Television, was launched with the help of John Greenway, Conservative MP for Ryedale, who gave his blessing to the scheme. A creditors' meeting is imminent, but Revell Ward Horton of Huddersfield, the liquidator, refuses to say when. "That's your problem," snaps an unhelpful spokesman.

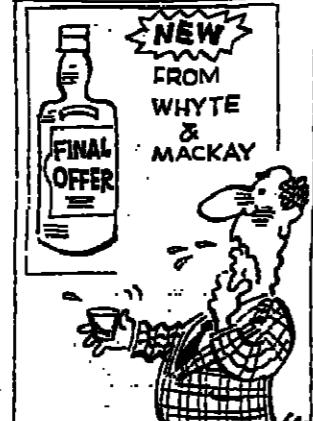
National loss

FORGET ANY possibility of losing the Ashes to England or nearly going down at rugby to Western Samoa. A real national disaster knocked a huge dent in Aussie pride yesterday. Castlemeain XXXX, that great symbol of macho

honeycomb in the South of France with Tom Scott-Morley. Aged 34, Mr Morley, an American who once worked in the mergers and acquisitions department at Swiss Bank Corporation, is now employed by GE Capital, the project finance arm of General Electric, the American electrical giant.

Fortune hunters

FIVE months ago, a Lloyd's broker and a barrister went into partnership to sell giant garden parasols from Madagascar to the British public, as reported in the *City Diary* at the time. Now, they have gone a step further and are selling a tropical plant that lives on virtually nothing and has, they claim, taken the Continent by storm. The so-called Fortune Tree, which is supposed to bring happiness to the home,



Family connection

ANNE Coleman, until three years ago chief press officer at the Stock Exchange — seeing it through Big Bang, the settlement saga and Black Monday — and who recently moved from Maureen Smith's Communication Group to Royle PR, has just enhanced her City connections. She returned this week from a three-week

origins from Queensland, Australia, and is being imported to Britain by the Indian Ocean Trading Company, run by James Hobbs, ex-Lloyd's, and Graeme Love, a former corporate financier with Laurence Prust. "We discovered them on a scouting trip in Germany," says Love, who adds that nearly half a million of the plants are being sold on the Continent each week.

Warring factions

WORD is spreading of a nasty brawl between two City gents in a pub in Wandsworth, south London, after one of England's World Cup rugby matches at Twickenham. One gent, said to have required hospital treatment after the incident, was an equity salesman for SG Warburg Securities. The other was a fund manager employed by Mercury Asset Management, which is owned by Warburg. "It was not an inter-group thing," says a harrased Warburg spokesman, insisting that the pair just happened to be in the pub at the same time.

CAROL LEONARD

Brent Walker's investors face an unpalatable truth

ONE of the bankers leading the fight to resuscitate Brent Walker this week reportedly turned to the energetic Count Alexei Orlov, leader of an action group representing the smaller shareholders, and offered him some advice. "The unfortunate fact of life is that God is always on the side of the big guns," he said.

That is a truth that the group's battered shareholders, facing the potential loss of their investments, might as well take to heart, however cynically it sounds. As the various contenders pick over the remains of the leisure and property group, the banks, owed £1.4 billion, control the artillery and are assured of first call on the pickings.

Shareholders will this weekend receive a letter from Count Orlov inviting them to join him at a special meeting to week tomorrow. They can be forgiven for having lost track of the tangled story since George Walker, the founder, departed as chairman at the start of the year and as chief executive this summer.

The banks' position is clear. Brent Walker must continue to trade until market conditions improve sufficiently to allow disposals of various assets, such as the Brighton Marina, London's Trocadero shopping centre and the William Hill betting chain, at better than fire sale prices. The proposed business plan covers what to maximise value.

On that, Alan Jackson, BTR chief executive, agrees. Until he knows the businesses as well as Dr Watkins, he says, he cannot detail his strategy. He doubts, however, the need for such a dramatic re-shaping. Hawker's move towards a long-term, focused approach is admirable, if overdue. But the scale and severity of its proposals must be worrying both to shareholders and employees. Dr Watkins has a brave vision. BTR has a safe pair of hands.

At the end of the day, Hawker will be transformed, whoever is in control. To withdraw from businesses on such a scale can be bold: it can be rash. And it can also be an admission of failure.



Walker: second in line, the Irish businessman, and Jefferson Smurfit Group, his packaging combine. This week, the Smurfit interests finally agreed to back the refinancing. By now, 80.6 per cent of the bondholders have agreed to support the banks, and the company is confident that enough of the rest will come around to secure the 90 per cent majority required by the banks.

Last in line are the preference and ordinary shareholders. Many will have

'Banks are assured of first call on the pickings'

written off their investments as worthless; the banks have given warning that, even if the refinancing goes through, the shares remain "extremely high risk investments".

Next in the pecking order are the bondholders, who put up £1.02 million late last year in one of those last-ditch rescues in which the group seems to specialise. Chief among them are Mr Walker, who has everything he owns tied up in the company, Michael Smurfit, and Tiny Rowland, the trading conglomerate which has made various unsuccessful attempts to get its hands on some or all of Brent Walker, culminating

in a tentative approach last month that was rejected by the banks and the company. As owner of about 5 per cent of the bonds, Lonrho's position is ambiguous, but one fact is certain: no firm offer from Lonrho currently exists.

The City's takeover panel takes this view, having ruled that Brent Walker is no longer in an offer period. Count Orlov, however, continues to pin his hopes, and, as he said yesterday, his reputation, on Lonrho. He is, therefore, in his letter, asking shareholders to express their opposition to the banks' refinancing, in the hope that this will tempt Lonrho to make a firm move.

Count Orlov retains great respect for Lonrho and Mr Rowland, whom he has described as "one of the world's greatest industrialists". Brent Walker and its banks are less complimentary; Lonrho says its proposals are still on the table.

Shareholders have little real say, although theoretically, they can bring the company down by refusing to support the refinancing at the vote, in which case the banks pick up what little can be raised by the receivers. Although it is doubtful the value of Brent Walker's assets is as low as the £300 million quoted by Count Orlov yesterday, this would leave nothing for anyone else.

If they hold out for a Lonrho offer, which may never emerge or may be made on less advantageous terms than have already been mooted, they run the risk of straining the banks' patience.

On the sidelines is Lonrho, Tiny Rowland's trading conglomerate, which has made various unsuccessful attempts to get its hands on some or all of Brent Walker, culminating

MARTIN WALLER



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Farm talks could help restart Gatt

By COLIN NARROUGHE, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN trade ministers has claimed that the Bonn cabinet agreement cleared the way for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks on free world trade, held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Tim Sainsbury, Britain's trade minister, is cautiously optimistic that the ministerial gathering at The Hague today will make progress after agreement by the German cabinet, on Wednesday, on a strategy to resolve differences in agricultural policy.

The German plan could leave France, the most vigorous opponent of American demands for removing farm subsidies, isolated.

Jürgen Möllmann, the German economics minister,



Hills' lost enthusiasm

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '900	Vol '900	Vol '900	Vol '900	
Abbey Nat	2,270	Cadbury	828	Royal Bank	899
Aldi-Lyons	2,171	CU	542	Royal Ins	857
Anglo	817	Courtaulds	1,058	SB	1,116
ASDA	10,025	Enterprises	1,058	Marwell Crn	500
AT&T	1,145	Exxon	557	Scott & N	3,620
Argus	1,722	Floors	3,315	Siemens Power	3,620
Arlo Wigg	714	Forse	822	Sears	2,824
BAA	1,556	Fluor	4,332	Siemens Tmt	659
BET	2,270	Forstner	4,165	Stet West	Shell
BAT	2,270	GEC	1,533	Smith & N	4,831
Barclays	2,890	General Foods	2,474	Smithkline Beecham	2,625
Bass	213	GIB 'A'	3,784	Sun Alliance	1,528
BICC	2,297	Pearson	880	Termeic	1,808
BK Scotland	393	Pilkington	1,572	Tate Lyle	414
BK Circle	1,414	Prudential	2,172	Telstra	3,361
BDC	1,610	Prudential	2,025	Thomson	2,298
Boots	2,004	Reckitt & Colman	1,457	Times Wtr	753
Br Aero	683	ICI	854	Thom Tmt	355
Br Always	2,908	Inchcape	1,072	Redland	1,165
Br Bae	2,270	Kingfisher	783	Reed	1,650
Br Bt	5,450	Lamco	1,048	Reilever	2,582
Br Petrol	11,951	Land Sec	812	Rentokil	87
Br Steel	3,721	RTZ	1,755	United Bks	968
Br Telecom	3,721	R-Rowes	2,880	Telstra	1,904
C&W	1,974	Lloyds	4,144	Telgate	194
		Rothmans B	422	Temec	194
		Rothmans B	1,798	Thomson	1,572
				Timberland	292
				Timex	101
				US Smaller	105
				Vacu Hidge	83

Hi-Tec strides along to 10% rise

By PHILIP PANGALOS

FIRST-half profits at Hi-Tec Sports, Britain's leading supplier of sports shoes, raced ahead as the group continued to buck the depressed high street trend.

The company, which has a quarter of the British sports shoe market, supplying more than seven million pairs of shoes a year in Britain alone, has enjoyed greater demand for its middle-market products as disposable incomes have been squeezed.

Hi-Tec lifted pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £3.74 million in the six months to end-July, as turnover advanced 16 per cent to £64.3 million.

Frank van Wezel, chairman, is "very confident" about future prospects. He said recent investments were bearing fruit and there had been useful sales growth in Europe. Hi-Tec had benefited from increased brand awareness, boosted by advertising and sponsorship, and from a strong performance by Bad Boys, the Dutch casualwear subsidiary acquired in August 1989. Bad Boys broke even in the first half, but is expected to contribute about £1.7 million (£1.3 million) to the group's full year pre-tax profits.

Stronger demand for sports shoes and leisure products seems set to continue. "In America," Mr van Wezel said, "one in two footwear purchases are sports- or leisure-related. In Europe, that figure is one in 3.7. We have a tremendous growth factor to go for in Europe."

Sports footwear accounts for about 73 per cent of Hi-Tec's business, clothing and accessories for the remaining



First tread: Frank van Wezel confident on prospects

27 per cent. The company's long-term aim is a 60:40 split. It has also been looking at acquisitions.

Earnings per share rose to 6.67p (5.98p), and sharehold-

TEMPUS

Shareholders remain loyal to Invergordon

THE continued support for Invergordon Distillers in the face of a 22.5 per cent increase in the cash bid from Whyte & Mackay, the subsidiary of American Brands, says much about the quality and reputation of Invergordon's management.

W&M, whose chairman and chief executive is Michael Lunn, increased its offer by £64 million yesterday to £350 million and met with immediate and inevitable rejection from the board and from a number of the analysts who had rejected the original offer of 22.5p a share as too low.

The original 22.5p represented an exit multiple of 16.5 times Invergordon's expected earnings for this year. Since then, the group has forecast pre-tax profits of £32 million for this year, much more than analysts had estimated. The new 27.5p bid is 16.5 times forecast earnings.

The market had hoped for 20 times earnings and an offer price of 27.5p to 30p a share. By pricing at the bottom end, W&M ensured instant disappointment. Had it been 10p higher, more would have wavered.

W&M may doubt the quality of Invergordon's forecast as the City does not. W&M is perceived as needing Invergordon more than Invergordon needs W&M.

County NatWest analyst Geoff Collyer believes that shareholders speaking for about 40 per cent of Invergordon are likely to reject the increased offer.

Even with the 9.4 per cent or so W&M bought in the market yesterday, it looks like an uphill struggle for the American-backed group.

No one is pretending the Invergordon share price will remain at its current level if W&M walks away, but there are enough who believe the price will be back around 27.5p on fundamentals alone before long. County is forecasting pre-tax profits for Invergordon of £38.7 million for 1992, putting the shares

on a multiple of 13.5 times. Institutional holders often have a different perspective: hence the market selling to W&M, which may prompt others to sell. There are some, however, who believe that, even on such as pragmatic view, they would be selling themselves short.

Medeva

MEDEVA, the independent pharmaceuticals group, obviously has a case of 77-itis. The group paid \$77 million for one American drugs group in April, thereby securing a foothold in the States. Now it is paying \$77 million cash to buy another American company.

The purchase of Adams Laboratories, of Fort Worth, Texas, looks sensible in structure, and brings Medeva an established sales force of 140 that will expand to at least 200 by next year, through which new product lines can be developed.

The rating is ready, but the shares have come up from 59p last October to yesterday's high on investment faith, and Medeva's itch to expand is not over yet.

plains, including ordinary coughs and sneezes. The company's founder and other private shareholders will stay on board through share ownership and contracts.

The purchase, for a maximum \$77.2 million, has been arranged via a placing among institutions of 17 million Medeva shares that raises the initial \$30 million payment. Deferred payments to Adams follow until 1995.

The deal still leaves Medeva cash-positive, and should boost earnings. Medeva's pre-tax profits of \$4 million in the year ended last December have already been overtaken by pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June of \$4.02 million.

Pre-tax profits to end-December could be £14 million, putting the shares, up 19p at 224p, on a prospective multiple of 37.

The rating is ready, but the shares have come up from 59p last October to yesterday's high on investment faith, and Medeva's itch to expand is not over yet.

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2	VSEL	Industrials S-Z	
3	Polymer	Minerals L-R	
4	Brown-Forman	Oil/Gas	
5	Bank of Ireland	Banks/Discount	
6	Laporte	Chemicals Plus	
7	Isox	Foods	
8	Seaf	Oil/Gas	
9	Maxwell Comm	Newspapers/Pub	
10	Eurocopy	Industrials E-K	
11	Leigh	Chemicals Plus	
12	Redditch	Breweries	
13	Highland Dist	Industrials	
14	Wagon Ind	Industrials S-Z	
15	Herby O & G	Oil/Gas	
16	HBA	Industrials A-D	
17	South West	Water	
18	Cozens Nat	Banks/Discount	
19	Yorkshire Water	Water	
20	Tiptree & Brins	Transport	
21	Met	Electrics	
22	Lyon (S)	Textiles	
23	Capita Op	Industrials A-D	
24	Town Centre	Property	
25	Midland	Banks/Discount	
26	Proffitts of Alexander	Industrials L-R	
27	Camming (W)	Chemicals Plus	
28	CRH	Building/Roads	
29	Mike Gp	Industrials L-R	
30	Sunprint (Jeff)	Paper/Print/Adv	
31	Boot (Henry)	Building/Roads	
32	Les Service	Motors/Aircraft	
33	Welsh Water	Water	
34	Cater Allen	Banks/Discount	
35	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals Plus	
36	RMC Gp	Building/Roads	
37	GHC	Electrics	
38	Witford	Property	
39	Metring	Industrials L-R	
40	BAA	Transport	
41	Read Int	Newspapers/Pub	
42	Medical Bar	Property	
43	Forminter	Drapery/Stores	
44	Southern	Newspapers/Pub	

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Barry Pickthall on a racing yacht returning to her former glory

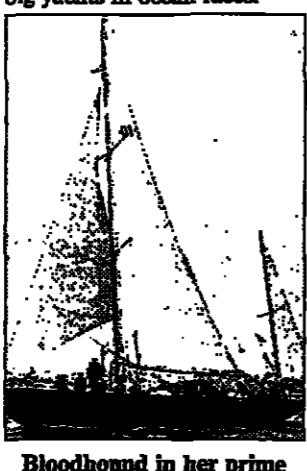
Owner sets sails on the restoration of a dream

A FAMOUS three-time winner of Britain's toughest offshore race, from Plymouth to the Fastnet Rock off Ireland and back, is in the process of being saved from an ignominious end in a muddy grave.

Bloodhound, the classic Charles Nicholson-designed racer, once owned by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, is being lovingly restored in Poole by Robert Cooke, who inherited the wreck when his father died last year.

"It was always my father's intention to rebuild the yacht," Cooke said. "He just never got round to it. Now I want to restore Bloodhound to her original specifications. She's a beautiful yacht, but we have a lot of work to do replacing some of her frames and planking," he says.

Launched in the spring of 1936, the 63-foot yawl was owned first by Isaac Bell. She proved an immediate winner, taking class honours in that year's Channel race. She won the Fastnet race outright two years later, and gained class wins in 1949 and 1952. Other significant victories followed.



Bloodhound in her prime

In 1962, the Queen and the Duke bought the yacht from Miles Wyatt, then Admiral of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, and instigator of the Champagne Mummers Admiral's Cup series that has the Fastnet classic as its concluding race. The Duke retained her for three or four days during successive Cowes Weeks until selling her on to Bernard Cooke in 1969. Bloodhound was also available for young people to gain a taste of sailing big yachts in ocean races.

"She is a very lucky boat," Robert Cooke recalls. "Once she was abandoned during a hurricane and found floating at anchor none the worse for wear the next day. In 1980, she broke away from her mooring and sailed out of Poole harbour on the tide. She was eventually found way out at sea without a scratch on her."

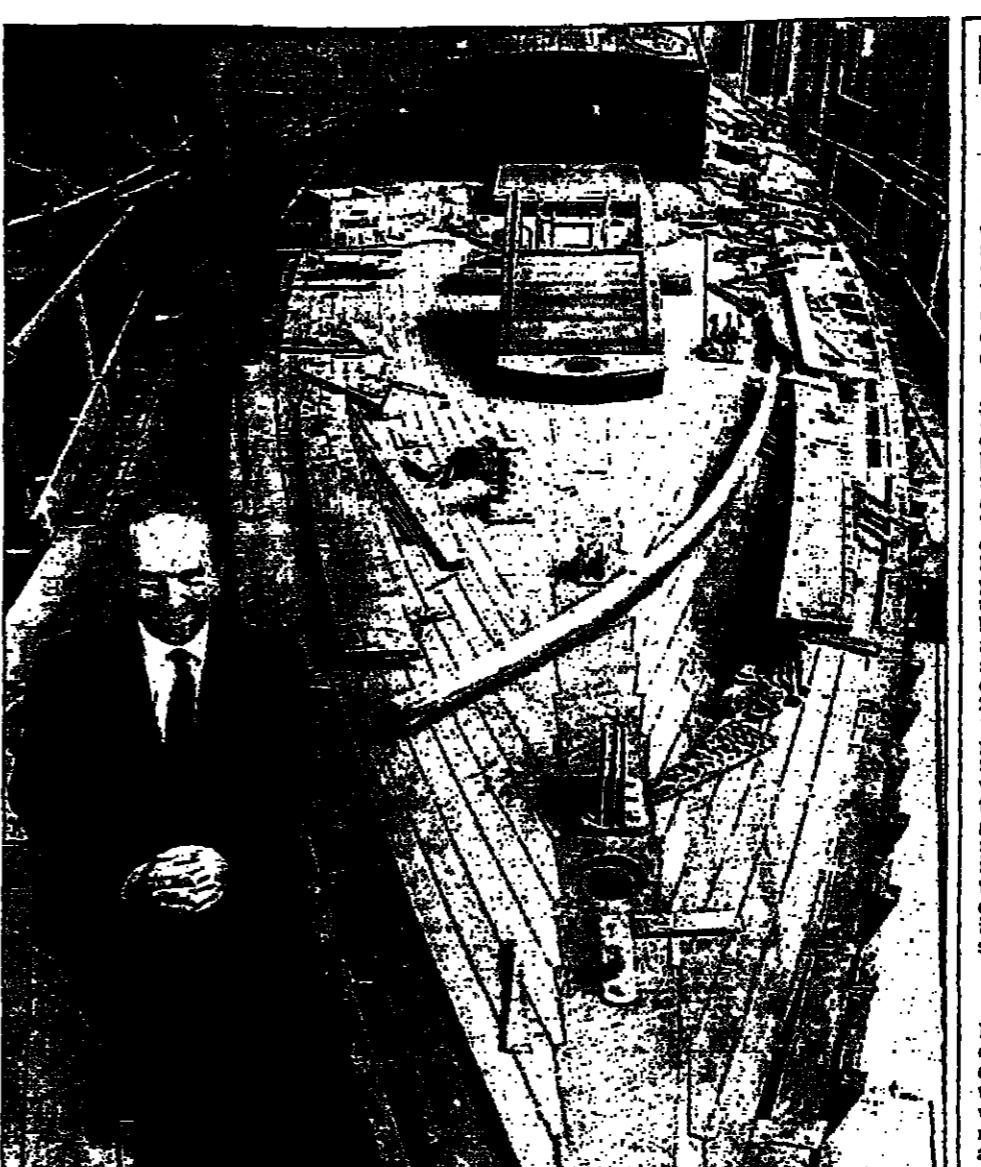
John Roome, the present Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron remembers the night Bloodhound had to be abandoned: "It was the 1956 Channel Race. The fleet was hit by a fierce storm which blew out all her sails. The crew were caught off Selsey Bill drifting towards a lee shore. She was one of three yachts abandoned during the race and her crew were rescued by the lifeboat. They left her with the anchor out, never expecting it to hold in those conditions. Miraculously, though, she was found the next day undamaged except for her anchor which had lost all but one of its flutes."

After Bloodhound's second unattended voyage in 1980, she spent the next ten years rotting away alongside Cobb's

Quay in Poole. One to show keen interest was Robin Aisher, who owns the boatyard at Cobb's Quay. "She was one of three almost identical yachts built by Camper and Nicholson and the last, a cruiser version, was the first of a long line of Yeoman yachts owned by my father. Bloodhound is a beautiful yacht with a remarkable history and it was such a shame to see her rotting away there," he said.

Restoration is "quite a job," Robert Cooke admits. "She was built with galvanised steel frames which have rusted away in places and have to be replaced. The problem has been caused by salt-water seeping through the decks which has also rotted her top planking."

After being bought by the Royal Family, the yacht underwent a refit when the yacht's interior was reshaped to accommodate a larger crew. Now Cooke intends to change her back to the original layout drawn up by the famous American architect, Rod Stephens. "We hope to have her back in the water next year," he said.



The task in hand: Robert Cooke alongside Bloodhound at Cobb's Quay in Poole

YACHT NOTES

Stark choice to be faced

BOAT owners, residents and environmentalists in the Falmouth area have the opportunity to solve the problem of balancing new mooring developments against increasing costs and the effects on the environment.

At a meeting last night, Andrew Bridgen, the Truro harbour master, said the decline in commercial shipping left him with a stark choice of increasing either the number of moorings or the fees. "Moorings are very cheap down here. There are no harbour dues and boat owners providing their own ground tackle can have a mooring here for between £2.50 and £3.00 per foot a year," he said. That is a fraction of the charge boat owners in the Solent area face.

Several schemes have been put forward to increase the number of berths, three of which include blocking off the upper reaches with a tidal gate. "The RYA points to a need for 80,000 more moorings in the south by the end of the decade. We could provide quite a few of those if local interests want them," Bridgen said.

Switched on

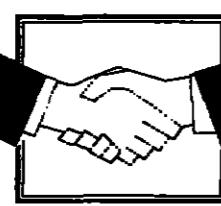
BRITISH Waterways and other authorities are to encourage greater use of electric power on Britain's inland waterways by providing a network of charging points alongside popular rivers and canals.

Continued from page 31

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

MOTORS LEASING

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE FINANCE . . . ?



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seater, 1466 seater, 1468 seater,

Fletcher a quiet achiever who delivers the bounty

Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, on a man whose unheralded work for his county calls out for further recognition

If the 1991 cricket season is destined to be forever coupled with the name of Graham Gooch, there is another Essex man whose influence upon it has been substantial, if deliberately inconspicuous.

Both with the county he has served for 30 years, and for the country he has hitherto been asked to serve outrageously little, Keith Fletcher's role has been that of the anonymous benefactor, dispensing his gifts without fuss or recognition.

It has always been this way with Fletcher, whose familiar stooping shuffle is now complemented by greying hair so that he resembles ever more the mild pipe-and-slippers type without thrust or ambition. It is an image with which he is happy but it is as misleading now as it was when, in 13 seasons as Essex captain, he outwitted all comers with the incisive cricket brain which lurks beneath the inoffensive front.

His confinement to one winter tour as England captain will always indite the selectors of the day with negligence. But, shrewd and respected leader that he was, Fletcher is unsure that he wants another shot at the high-profile existence demanded by the top jobs.

Now, it is not the captaincy but the England team

manager's job which is at issue. Fletcher, who this winter will undertake his third tour as manager of the England A team, is the natural successor to Micky Stewart if, on reaching his sixtieth birthday and the end of his contract this time next year, Stewart's six years in charge come to an end. Fletcher, however, is not yet a declared runner.

"They have to offer it to me first," he says, with caution born of bitter disappointments. "If they do, it is something I would have to think about very seriously. Micky has given the job total commitment and anyone taking over would be expected to do the same."

There would be less of the fishing and shooting he has always enjoyed, and the skiing which is a recent addition to the winter diary, but the most obvious casualty, and the decision which would cause Fletcher most agonising, is to discard his coaching job at Essex.

To the outsider, the Fletcher factor may seem more tenuous since that the will to win is very much

greater. This side is more ambitious than those of the Sixties and Seventies but I don't accept the theory that this has taken the characters from the dressing-room. We may not have the funny men we once did but all these blokes are characters in their own right.

"My main role here is to bring young players good enough to come into the first team, which means spending a lot of time with the second XI. But my other job is to make sure the first team keeps playing as they should, and I am with them at least two days a week."

The success of the job reflects in the smooth introduction, this season, of Nick Knight and Jonathan Lewis, young batsmen so promising that Fletcher agreed to the release of a third, Adam Seymour. Bowlers, Fletcher concedes, are in much shorter supply but the return from back trouble of Mark Illott will, he says, immeasurably strengthen the side next year. "If he had been playing this season we would have won the championship a good bit earlier," he says feelingly.

"It took us a long time to win anything and it goes without saying that things were different then. We had a lot of fun and, under 'Tonker' Taylor, there was certainly a sergeant-major sort of discipline. But we didn't work on cricket nearly as much as our team does now."

"The biggest difference is that we have some better players nowadays, and that the will to win is very much



Changing face of the game: Fletcher surveys Chelmsford and recalls just how much progress has been made

HOCKEY

Olympic goal in sight

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE British women's team opens its Olympic qualifying bid in Auckland tomorrow with confidence, despite a scoring famine that has not produced a goal in the past four tour matches.

Yesterday, in a practice match of three sessions against Germany, Britain again had the edge but lost out to a strike from a late penalty corner.

"It is not for a lack of shots on goal," Dennis Hay, the coach, said. "We still have top gear and overdrive to come and we are saving that for the tournament matches."

Britain should have little difficulty in becoming one of the five qualifying teams to join Australia, the Olympic champions, Spain, the host country, and The Netherlands, the world champions, in Barcelona.

Britain have the easier of the two sections, and have yet to concede a goal against their first three opponents. They play Italy tomorrow, Argentina on Sunday and Ireland on Tuesday.

The final two section matches, against Canada and China, will offer a sterner test. Olympic places automatically go to the top two finishers in each section.

Britain team earns invite

THE Netherlands, Spain and Great Britain have accepted invitations to play in a four-nation tournament, which is being organised by the Hockey Association (HA), next June (Sydney Friskin writes).

"I expect it will be about two weeks after the BMW Trophy in Amsterdam," Phil Appleby, the HA president, said. "Great Britain's men's and women's teams will take part in the BMW event from June 3 to 8."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Farnborough learn by error

By WALTER GAMMIE

AS THE realisation that his side was top of the GM Vauxhall Conference sank in during the coach journey home after winning 2-1 at Bath City on Tuesday, Ted Pearce, the Farnborough Town manager, found his mind drawn irresistibly back to dim and distant days.

Pearce, aged 49, whose recollections stretch back over 22 years in charge, said: "I couldn't help thinking that it all started on a rope-off area on a public recreation ground. We had intermediate status. We had one ball and one set of kit."

"Once we had to change colours and I had to borrow some strip from a Sunday league side. We used to meet at a telephone box if we were going away and went in cars. Mind you, we were lucky in those days if one of the lads had a car."

The foundation of the rise that has displaced Wycombe Wanderers from the top, for the first time this season, has been a run of seven consecutive away victories. "For a club with our resources, which are extremely limited — we are just run on a shoestring — to be where we are is marvellous," Pearce said. "It hasn't sunk in after 11 games we are on a bit of a run with our away sequence, which I'm told equals the seven wins by

RUGBY LEAGUE

Official curb on intruders

By KEITH MACKLIN

THE increasing irritation for referees caused by pitch invaders carrying water bottles and messages for players is to be banned by the Rugby Football League (RFL) from next month.

A fourth official will be based on the touchline to back up the referee and two touch judges. His function will be to supervise all comings and goings on the pitch involving injuries, substitutions, bin-binning and the removal of players to receive attention in the blood-bath.

David Howes, the RFL public affairs executive, said: "This will enable the referee to get on with the job of running the game and applying the laws without being disturbed by a whole army of non-playing personnel whose primary function often seems to

be to convey water bottles and messages." The fourth official will also be a deputy in the event of illness or injury striking one of the three officials during a match. This has been the practice at all big games now, but will be introduced at all first-team and Alliance games.

In 1989 Balestre was accused of manipulating the world drivers' title when Ayrton Senna was disqualified after "winning" the Japanese grand prix. The title went to Alain Prost, of France, and Foca, led by Bernie Ecclestone, then boss of Brabham, resolved their difference with the 1981 Concord Agreement. It was Mosley, a legal adviser to Ecclestone and a prominent Foca member

through his March team, who played a leading role in the formation of the agreement.

By the late 1980s, with the help of Ecclestone, who became a vice-president of Fisa, Balestre, who is still president of FIA, the international motoring federation, began to turn his attention to safety, particularly in Formula One. Turbo engines were banned from 1989, and much tougher "crash tests" and other technical criteria were introduced for cars.

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Cauthen lines up Ascot double

STEVE Cauthen can be given a bright chance of landing a double at Ascot today on Silver Braid (3.05) and Red Bishop (4.15). In going for Silver Braid to win the listed Moss Bros October Stakes, I am disregarding her form in the middle of the season when she completely lost her way in a manner that still baffles her trainer, David Elsworth.

I am banking on her repeating the form she showed at Newbury in April and again last time out at Doncaster last month. At Newbury, Silver Braid was a highly creditable second in the Fred Darling Stakes to the subsequent 1,000 Guineas winner Shadoid with fillies of the calibre of Chicarita, Lee Ariste and Only Yours behind her.

At Doncaster, Silver Braid looked the likely winner of another listed event, the Scap-

THE TIMES
HORSES

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

ire Stakes, until Lester Piggott conjured a remarkable late effort out of You Know The Rules and got up to win by a short head. On that form Silver Braid holds her finished third.

While Collide and Lovealoch can also be given good chances judged on how they performed at the Capannelle in Rome and at Newbury last time, I still feel that Unimpressive could turn out to be Silver Braid's most dangerous opponent now that the ground has eased.

She finished a fine third to Kooyong in the Irish 1,000 Guineas on similar ground at the Curragh in the spring after winning at Newbury and also

over today's course and distance.

John Gosden, the successful Newmarket-based trainer, made three entries for the Moss Bros Stakes and I find it significant that he has chosen to rely upon the lightly-quoted and consequently hard to rate Red Bishop, even though he has been set to carry 9st 4lb in this, his first handicap.

Red Bishop was an impressive winner of a maiden race at Haydock a fortnight ago. As that was his first race of the season he will strip fresher than most.

At least the handicapper has been able to get to grips with Viron Venture and The Glasha, who finished first and second in a similar race run over today's course and distance on the same day.

Later in the programme, Gosden's booking of the sea-

son's leading apprentice Darrell Holland for Nadeen in the Mayflower Stakes looks highly relevant.

In going nap on Red Rain-

bow to win the Wyndham

Handicap I am aware that he has never tackled today's dis-

tance of two miles. However, I believe that the risk is worth taking because Red Rainbow has been running on so strongly at the end of his two races over 12 furlongs that he has appeared ready for today's longer trip.

Although outclassed by Surrealist at Newmarket a week ago, he still managed to finish ahead of horses of the calibre of Libk, Clare Heights, Aimaam and Torchon. A repetition of that form over this trip should suffice.

As far as the Duke of Edinburgh Stakes is concerned, my best information concerns the Peter Chapman-Hyam-trained Juiper-Hyam, while the in-form Blockade will be hard to peg back in the Aim Aviation Nursery, having won over a longer trip at Goodwood a week ago when making all the running.



Elsworth: hoping Silver Braid is back to her best

3.40 AIM AVIATION NURSERY HANDICAP (£1,320: 7f (15 runners))

401	2157	COCHABAMBA 21 (D.F.G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 97	Paul Eddery	82
402	2158	OWNER'S DREAM 14 (M Salter) B Hanbury 93	B Ryegood	80
403	2159	PROVIDENCE 10 (D.G) F Salter	G Moore	80
404	2160	NATIVE CHEFTAN 10 (D.G) (M Redman) H Hanbury 90	A Munro	91
405	2161	SIR SHREWD PARTNER 12 (Y) (Alzate) D Bawth 8-12	M Roberts	91
406	2162	ASPERN 12 (N) (D Pates) D Merton 8-12	W Carson	88
407	2163	THE HAND 12 (M) (D Pates) W Hayes 8-10	B Crowley	88
408	2164	SBS PRINCE SECRET 42 (M) (D Pates) A Gosselin 8-10	I Dutton	88
409	2165	STINGER 28 (J Mitchell) M Bas 8-10 (sd)	P Turner	74
410	2166	STINGER 38 (J Mitchell) C Nelson 87	T Quinn	84
411	2167	STYLING PROJECT 27 (D.F.G) (Unival Pura) W Carter 87	D Pidgeon	80
412	2168	APPLAUSE 18 (D.F.G) (M Salter) M Bas 8-10	D Pidgeon	80
413	2169	ROUTE SERGEANT 83 (P) (M) (M) M Macpherson 82	A Clark	93
414	2170	12161 LOURA SCARLETT 27 (F.G) (J Robertson) G Linn 8-1	F Norton	95
415	2171	MISTER BANDIT 7 (P) (M) (M) Culligan 7-7 (sd) ... D Hartnett	D Hartnett	7
416	2172	BETTING: 3-1 Blodette, 8-1 Prince Scamto, Cochabamba, 9-1 By Hand, Nadeen, Chelton, 10-1 Amadeus Ace, 11-1 Showgo, 12-1 Shewell, Shared Partner, 12-1 Appliance Times, Master Bawth, 14-1 others.		
1990 DESERT SPLENDOUR 85 M Hobbs (14) C Britton 14 ran				

BETTING: 2-1 Blodette, 8-1 Prince Scamto, Cochabamba, 9-1 By Hand, Nadeen, Chelton, 10-1 Amadeus Ace, 11-1 Showgo, 12-1 Shewell, Shared Partner, 12-1 Appliance Times, Master Bawth, 14-1 others.

1990 DESERT SPLENDOUR 85 M Hobbs (14) C Britton 14 ran

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.05 Able Susan. 3.40 BLOCKADE (nap).

3.45 Nucleus.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 RED RAINBOW.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M STRAIGHT, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 WYNDHAM HANDICAP (£1,452: 2m 45yd) (11 runners)

101 (8) 336839 FIRST VICTORY 12 (F.G) (D Salter) R Hanbury 5-11

102 (7) 336840 SILVER GATE 29 (D.F.G) (P Jones) M Salter 9-6

103 (10) 336841 JUNIPER BERRY 3-0 (M) (D) (M) Lady Hanbury 3-0 (sd)

104 (9) 336842 RED RAINBOW 8 (S) (4) 8 (M) Hanbury 9-6

105 (8) 244014 ROYAL STANDARD 22 (D.F.G) (M) (Shahid Mohammed) J Gosselin 4-10-10

106 (7) 220241 AHSAYLAH 23 (D.F.G) (M) (Shahid Mohammed) P Lee 5-8

107 (11) 010012 CASTORTE 20 (F.G) (Lady D'Avigdor-Goldsmid) J Hillis 5-8

108 (9) 54-140214 CASTORTE 15 (F.G) (Lady D'Avigdor-Goldsmid) D Bawth 4-8

109 (8) 244015 DAZZLED 27 (F.G) (M) (D) (M) D Bawth 4-8

110 (2) 404165 REQUESTED 40 (D.F.G) (G) (M) (F) R Alsharif 4-7-8

111 (5) 020 ADJARISTON 104 (F.G) (M) (F) R Simpson 4-7-7

Long handicap: Adjarian 64.

BETTING: 9-2 Castle Cavalier, 11-2 Musa, 5-1 Castone, 13-2 First Victory, 7-1 Royal Standard, 8-1 Red Rainbow, 10-1 Gay Gilt, Requested, 12-1 Ashbydale, 16-1 Belvoir, 25-1 Advertiser.

1990 NAZWA 5-8 W R Swinburn 25-1 (7) Shout 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

FIRST VICTORY 11 3rd of 8 to Queen in Doncaster (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race. 2nd in 12-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good) handicap on penultimate start.

CASTLE CAVALIER best Star Queen 3-0 in 10-race Newmarket (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race. 2nd in 12-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race. 3rd in 12-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

ROYAL STANDARD 6/4 2nd of 4 to Queen in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

DAZZLED 1st of 14 to Queen in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

REQUESTED 1st of 12 to Queen in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

ADJARISTON 1st of 12 to Queen in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

FORM FOCUS

2.30 DUKE OF EDINBURGH STAKES (2-Y-O colts & fillies: £9,587: 5f (7) (7 runners))

201 (3) MUHARIB (F) (Kafe) N Culligan 9-0

202 (4) OUR OCCASION (S) (E) (L) R Hanbury 9-0

203 (7) 336842 TROOPING IN (D) (M) (D) A Scott 9-0

204 (2) CLOUD OF DUST (M) (P) (K) J Dunlop 8-9

205 (6) JUNIPER BERRY (F) (Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-9

206 (5) PURITY (Commodore G Mates) D Elsworth 8-8

207 (6) 121205 LOVEALOCH 12 (D.F.G) (A) (L) (L) M Bawth 8-11

208 (5) 121214 CLOUD OF DUST 12 (D.F.G) (A) (L) M Bawth 8-11

209 (7) 41-0135 SILVER BRAD 27 (D) (M) (D) D Bawth 8-11

210 (9) 113435 UNIMINUTE 49 (D.C.B.F.G) (S) (M) (Shahid Mohammed) P Cole 8-11

211 (6) 15-1812 ZONDA 35 (F) (S) (M) (Shahid Mohammed) T Quinn 9-4

BETTING: 2-1 Juniper Berry, 7-2 Troping, 5-1 Spanish Miner, 7-1 Purity, 8-1 Cloud of Dust, Our Occasion, 12-1 Muhyilat, 6-1 Able Susan, 7-1 Fairy Flyer, Silver Braid, 8-1 Collide, Malpomene, 10-1 Chipre, Lovealoch, 11-1 Soul, 12-1 Zonda.

1990: ISLAND UNIVERSE 8-1 L Doherty 11 ran 10m 8 ran 11 L Current 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUHARIB (Foaled Apr 8, cost 76,000gns) by Far North out of a half-sister to high class performers Leaf Fan and First Prize. Trainer: David Elsworth. Owner: Gail Glazebrook. Previous Starts: 6 in Newmarket (2m, good) handicap on penultimate start.

CASTLE CAVALIER best Star Queen 3-0 in 10-race Newmarket (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race. 2nd in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

ROYAL STANDARD 6/4 2nd of 4 to Queen in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

DAZZLED 1st of 14 to Queen in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

REQUESTED 1st of 12 to Queen in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

ADJARISTON 1st of 12 to Queen in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

FORM FOCUS

3.05 MOSS BROS OCTOBER STAKES (Listed Race: 3-Y-O fillies: 51,972: 1m 10yd) (10 runners)

201 (2) 512211 ABLE SUSAN 14 (C.D.F.G) (Sons of B Moller) G Wragg 5-11

202 (4) 111-5082 CHIPAYA 13 (F.G) (S) (G) (P) J Fashen 8-11

203 (10) 121201 COLLIDE 20 (D.F.G) (M) (W) M Hanbury 8-11

204 (8) 12-1612 FAIRY FLAX 15 (F.G) (P) (M) Hanbury 8-11

205 (1) 122013 LOVEALOCH 12 (D.F.G) (A) (L) M Bawth 8-11

206 (5) 12-1514 CLOUD OF DUST (M) (P) (K) J Dunlop 8-9

207 (6) 12-1615 JUNIPER BERRY (F) (Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11

208 (7) 41-0135 SILVER BRAD 27 (D) (M) D Bawth 8-11

209 (9) 113435 UNIMINUTE 49 (D.C.B.F.G) (S) (M) (Shahid Mohammed) P Cole 8-11

210 (10) 15-1812 ZONDA 35 (F) (S) (M) (Shahid Mohammed) T Quinn 9-4

BETTING: 11-2 Uniminate, 6-1 Able Susan, 7-1 Fairy Flyer, Silver Braid, 8-1 Collide, Malpomene, 10-1 Chipre, Lovealoch, 11-1 Soul, 12-1 Zonda.

1990: FIRE THE GROOM 8-1 L Doherty 11 ran 10m 8 ran 11 L Current 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

ABLE SUSAN best Cendres Express by comfortable 3½ lengths over course and distance (good to firm) handicap race. 2nd in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race. 3rd in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

CHIPAYA best Star Queen in group 3 in 10-race 1,000 Guineas (1m 12f, good to firm) handicap race.

<p

Cooke calls on his England players to raise their game as the World Cup starts the last phase of pool matches

Americans seeking to bow out in style

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE involvement of the United States in the World Cup will end after this afternoon's match against England at Twickenham, but in one respect they will have done better than New Zealand, the holders of the Webb Ellis Cup: they will have filled Twickenham, which the All Blacks were unable to do — if only by a couple of hundred — when they opened the tournament against England last week.

The Rugby Football Union expects a sell-out crowd of 57,500 (a figure which does not include the hospitality boxes) for the penultimate Pool 1 match, which England must win for their own self-esteem, not to mention their place in the quarter-finals next weekend. That will be a record for a game against a non-International Board country, and a far cry from 1977, when



a few thousand turned out to see the only previous appearance at Twickenham by a fully representative American XV.

Ominously, Geoff Cooke emphasised yesterday that England have yet to reach the quality of performance to which they aspire. On top of that, several of today's team are aware that this may be their only appearance in the World Cup and will wish to make the most of it; a smaller number — three at the most — may see a place in the quarter-final XV as within their grasp.

Not that the Eagles, whose team list became somewhat confused on Wednesday night and suggested, among other things, that Brian Vizard's elbow injury had improved sufficiently for him to lead the team at Twickenham (it has not), are turning up to act as cannon fodder. The six Englishmen who played in the 34-4 victory in Sydney in the 1987 World Cup will remember them as being big, hard-tackling opponents.

"We don't like being caught up in close, tight situations, like a boxer in a clinch," Jim Perkins, the Eagles coach, said. "We want to get away from the scrummaging, we like to play the ball wide. But we do spend a lot of time working on our defence because we know we will get little ball from the top countries."

"Americans are superb tacklers when they are in the right frame of mind, and we try to create things from that defence. But overall I have 26 guys who are delighted to be in the World Cup, and delighted to be going up against two of the world's best."

The first of those, New Zealand, were clearly disconcerted by the enthusiasm of the American approach at Gloucester on Tuesday, before stretching away to their 46-6 win. England can expect more of the same but Cooke, the team manager, wants the discipline and cohesion which ensured that Tuesday's match with Italy was won within the first quarter.

Simon Hodgkinson will enjoy a return to the arena where, seven months ago, he was a grand-slam hero, and Simon Halliday a return to international rugby after spending much of 1990 uncertain whether a chronic ankle condition would even allow him to play again. John Oliver, the Northampton hooker, plays only his second international, his first was against Argentina last year.

After today, England take stock: the squad, and their families, will spend the weekend in St Brelade in Jersey, a recreational period before flying on Monday to Paris, the assumption being that the final round will see New Zealand finish as Pool 1 winners and England runners-up.

Meanwhile, Jason Hewett, a student in Auckland, will win



Front-row features: Oliver, the England hooker, in delightful form with the ball in hand at training yesterday

RUGBY WORLD CUP	
England	United States
S R Hodgkinson 15	Full back R B Nelson 15
(Nottingham)	(Seattle, Shore)
N J Hepop 14	Right wing G M Hulme 14
(Oswestry)	(Oshawa, Shore)
W D C Carling* 13	Right centre M A Williams 13
(Hertfordshire)	(Gentlemen of Japan)
S J Halliday 12	K G Higgins 12
(Hertford)	(Old Blues)
R Underwood 11	Left wing P Sheehy 11
(Leicester)	(Washington DC)
C R Andrew 10	Stand-off C P O'Brien 10
(Worcester)	(Old Blues)
R J Hill 9	Scrum half M D Pidcock 9
(Barnsley)	(Peru)
J Leonard 1	Prop L Manga 1
(Hertfordshire)	(South Jersey)
C J Oliver 2	Hooker A W Flay 2
(Nottingham)	(Jersey Shore)
G S Pearce 3	Prop N Mottram 3
(Nottingham)	(Bath)
M G Skinner 6	Flanker S Litman 6
(Nottingham)	(Santa Monica)
N C Redman 4	Lock C E Tunnicliffe 4
(Bath)	(Belmont Shore)
W A Dooley 5	Lock K R Swindall 5
(Preston Chappells)	(Seattle)
G W Rees 7	Flanker R Farley 7
(Nottingham)	(Philadelphia, Wimberly)
D Richards 8	No. 8 A M Ridnell 8
(Leicester)	(Ottawa, Quebec)
*Captain	*Captain
Referee: L J Peard (Wales)	
REPLACEMENTS: 16 J M Webb (Bath), 17 D P A G Rendell (Nottingham), 18 C D Morris (Oreka), 19 P A G Rendell (Nottingham), 20 B C Moon (Nottingham), 21 P J Adderd (Nottingham)	

England and the United States have met only once before at full international level, in the last World Cup four years ago, and the Americans won 20-17. The tries were from Peter Winterbottom (2), Wade Dooley and Mike Henson; Jonathan Webb kicked three conversions and a penalty. The English team included the same men as 1987 — Andrew Hill, Peter Dooley, Richards and Rees — and United States three — Nelson, Hein and Higgins.

There have also been two internationals for which England did not award caps. In October 1977 they won 20-17, with tries from Mike Jones (4), Derek Wyatt (4), John Scott and John Carleton and five conversions and a penalty by David Hare. In the English team were Eddie Jones, Jim Hart, Eddie, Steve Smith scored two tries, as did Tony Swift and Scott. Hare kicked seven conversions and two penalties.

Meanwhile, Jason Hewett, a student in Auckland, will win

his first cap for New Zealand when they play Italy at Leicester on Sunday. He comes in at scrum half for Graeme Bachop. Hewett, 23 next week, resumes his provincial pairing with Grant Fox, while John Kirwan and Brian Brooke, two more Aucklanders, have shrugged off niggling injuries.

Walter Little, who was linked with Rugby earlier this year, plays his first World Cup match at centre, as does Mark Carter, the flanker who won

his first cap against Australia in the 6-3 win at Eden Park in August. Carter displaces Michael Jones, whose religious beliefs do not permit him to play on Sundays.

NEW ZEALAND: T Wright; J Kavan, C Innes, W Little, V Tunnicliffe, G Fox, J Whetton, G Whetton, I Jones, M Carter, B Brooke. Replacements: S Philpott, B McCaig, J Preston, P Henderson, A East, G Dowd.

After today, England take stock: the squad, and their families, will spend the weekend in St Brelade in Jersey, a recreational period before flying on Monday to Paris, the assumption being that the final round will see New Zealand finish as Pool 1 winners and England runners-up.

Meanwhile, Jason Hewett, a student in Auckland, will win

Coverage by ITV proves anything but all Greek

By DAVID HANDS

THE Greeks, they say, have a word for it, although I am none too sure what their word is for a town in the Midlands which gave its name to a sport. At all events, Greece is among the countries which have shown an interest in the televising of the Rugby World Cup, which, on Wednesday evening, reached the halfway mark of 16 matches.

Rugby union is not a game immediately associated with Greece, no more is Austria known as a hothead of the sport, yet Austrian television is negotiating for a programme of highlights from the final on November 2 — so long as an introductory programme will tell their viewers what the game is all about.

More than 60 countries are taking television rights of the tournament. On Wednesday, the busiest day with five matches being played, ITV received three calls from the United States asking for further coverage. Yet all the while ITV Sport is on trial because for the first time it is showing a game which has always been associated with the BBC and which has never attracted an audience of more than six million.

The viewing figures for the opening game of the tournament, England v New Zealand, are likely to be available next week. Not that cold statistics are the only measure of success which Bob Burrows, the head of ITV Sport, is prepared to recognise: "The

marvellous thing for me is how the broadcast team has come together from a standing start."

"My view is that we will have a good World Cup if we show we can cover the game with authority, with style and with quality. It is particularly important for us to demonstrate that, after the loss of the domestic contract, when the judgement of the home unions was that the BBC was the only one which could show rugby."

So far, it has been a good World Cup for the ITV team. The operation, costing £7 million, involves the laying of 4,500 miles of cable, the use of 12 satellites to beam pictures round the world, 20 outside broadcast units and nearly 1,000 people throughout the network, of whom 300 are at Teddington, the heartbeat of the whole operation.

But bare logistics do nothing to indicate the ordered frenzy which exists beside the Thames on such a day as Wednesday, when the first of five matches began at 1pm in Pontypool and the last at 8pm in Cardiff, with visits in between to Edinburgh, Dublin and Toulouse.

In one sense, it was a straightforward day since five action occupied so much of the air time. In another, it was a frenetic operation to pare down four matches into a package of scoring highlights to fit the last game of the day, Wales v Argentina.

Constant readjustments

must be made when a match goes into injury time. "You have one minute 36 seconds for that; if you don't overrun your one minute 45 seconds now," a studio assistant stops Bough in hand, informs Frank Bough — the eye of the storm, you might say. She is only one of several voices that Bough hears as he prepares for his next link in the studio presentation.

Admission for Bough's professionalism is hugely enhanced by a visit to ITV's headquarters. The ease with which he sustains the flow of information, of comment while responding to a non-stop barrage of instructions in his earpiece is ample justification for ITV's revival of the role which he occupied for so many years with BBC's *Grandstand*.

Brough admits his team is learning all the time. The tendency to re-run action when the game is proceeding has been noted and cured.

The use of so many cameras (14 for some games) is an art form but he is immensely pleased to have launched what he believes is a new generation of commentators and to have gained credibility for a sport which many in Britain thought ITV might treat frivolously.

Any organisation whose

head of site operations is named Steve McDowell — same spelling, even as the All Blacks prop — must have something going for it when it comes to rugby union.

Scotland stay the same for decider

By ALAN LORIMER

SCOTLAND have selected the side that defeated Japan 47-9 for the decider match in Pool 2 against Ireland at Murrayfield tomorrow but have made two changes in the replacements.

Before the game with Zimbabwe on Wednesday, which was won 15-12, Duncan Pater-son, the Scotland manager, indicated there were still certain positions open to competition for the Ireland match. In reality, the only debatable position was at lock, where the choice rested between Doddie Weir and Damian Cronin.

In the event, Cronin did nothing exceptional against Zimbabwe to convince the selectors that he would add to Scotland's lineout performance. Weir, a mobile forward and genuine jumper, has been retained to partner Chris Gray.

The only real worry for the Scotland management has been the fitness of Tony Slanger, who limped off the field on Wednesday after sustaining a knee injury. He has been examined by an orthopaedic surgeon and passed fit.

The two changes in the Scotland replacements are Graham Shiel for Douglas Wyllie and Alan Watt for David Milne. Shiel provides more adequate cover at stand-off and, as an inside centre, has the advantage of playing alongside Craig Chalmers in club rugby. Watt's promotion is thoroughly deserved and, according to Pater-son, was "on merit".

SCOTLAND: G Hastings (Woolton); A G Stanger (Harrow); S Hastings (Harrow); D C M Chisholm (Merton); G Armstrong (Lad Forest); D M B Sole (Edinburgh Academicals); J Allen (Edinburgh); D C Chalmers (Edinburgh); J. W. London (Scotland); J. Jeffrey (Kloof); C A Gray (Nottingham); G W Webb (Merton); F Calder (Sheffield); M. Webb (Merton); D B White (London); D. Williams (London); V. W. Dods (Glasgow); G. Marshall (Selkirk); A J Watt (Glasgow High/Carluke); K S Muir (Merton's PP).

Irish keep faith in Mullin

By BRYAN STILES

IRELAND kept faith with Brendan Mullin, their record try-scorer, when making seven changes for the match against Scotland at Murrayfield tomorrow. The game will decide who occupies the all-important first place in Pool 2.

Mullin, omitted from the opening game against Zimbabwe, showed with one electrifying, try-creating burst against Japan that he has a talent that cannot be ignored.

He will have Simon Geoghegan as his right-wing partner with Keith Crossan on the other wing, cleared after having an ankle x-rayed.

All six forwards rested for the game against Japan return. Neil Francis, in whom much of Ireland's lineout ambitions are invested, has a bruised thigh but was given the go-ahead to play, although neither he nor Crossan trained yesterday.

IRELAND: J Stephen; S Geoghegan; B Mullin; D Carty; K Crossan; P Keaveny; P Saunders; N Poppelwell; S Smith; D Fitzgerald; P Matthews (capt), D Lanhant, N Flanagan, D Quinn, B Robbie, P. P. O'Carroll, C. O'Carroll, K Murphy; C O'Carroll; P. Ahone, T. Kington, C. Healy, N. Merton.

France stay with the same team

Agan — France yesterday announced an unchanged side for their game against Canada on Sunday (Chris Thau writes).

Daniel Dubroca, the France coach, said that the game against Canada should serve as a rehearsal for their projected quarter-final match against England in Paris. Canada is a little England. They play a similar type of rugby, he said.

"We did make progress, and this is reflected in the consistency of our selection, but there is still a lot to be done and that's why we kept the side together."

The decision to maintain an unchanged side is risky if a player is injured late in the competition, but Dubroca seemed confident that the 16 used so far could carry on if haven't seen yet a player exhausted after a game. They are incredibly fit."

TEAM: S Bézecourt, J-É. Lefèvre, S. Geoghegan, B. Mullin, D. Carty, K. Crossan, P. Keaveny, P. Saunders, N. Poppelwell, S. Smith, D. Fitzgerald, P. Matthews (capt), D. Lanhant, N. Flanagan, D. Quinn, B. Robbie, P. P. O'Carroll, C. O'Carroll, K. Murphy, C. O'Carroll, P. Ahone, T. Kington, C. Healy, N. Merton.

Farr-Jones winning battle

By PETER BILLS

THE Australia captain, Nick Farr-Jones, could be fit for their quarter-final on October 20, most probably against Ireland or Scotland in Dublin.

Farr-Jones limped into breakfast at the team's Cardiff hotel yesterday after spending the night with his team-mates in a nursing home in Cardiff following an operation on his right knee. But the coach, Eddie Dwyer, was optimistic about Farr-Jones's chance of recovery.

"Nick has shown he is a fast healer and I would back him to prove it again this time," Dwyer said. "He is saying he will be all right for the quarter-final and I know him well enough not to disagree. It's not us serious as we

first feared and Nick has demonstrated in the past he can beat the odds with this type of injury."

Wales, who play Australia at Cardiff tomorrow, retreated to their rehabilitation centre at Brecon yesterday after their victory over Argentina. Moving into his team for the match, Eddie Dwyer said: "It's been a difficult three months after the 62-6 defeat they suffered in Brisbane. All will be a problem, according to the Wales coach, Alan Davies. "The hardest thing will be calming them down, control the motivation they have," he said. "They feel they have a point to prove against Australia and are desperate to get started."

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Preparing to board the plane for Paris



Andrew: quietly optimistic of further progress in cup

THE first week of the 1991 World Cup is over and the England camp is in quiet, if optimistic, mood. We are going along quite well in what we seek to do and the first stage will be completed with the match against the United States today, our last pool game. Assuming things go as planned, both for ourselves and France this weekend, then we board the plane for Paris on Monday afternoon to prepare for the quarter-final.

We will go into that match having learned at least one valuable lesson from the All Blacks, who defeated us in the first game of the tournament; namely, how to kill off a game once you get ahead. We just couldn't get back into that match because they played a very disciplined, very effective and clever All Black type of game.

Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, reflects on the first week of the Rugby World Cup as the team plans for its final pool match against the United States today

Quite honestly, we were disappointed with the way we played. The occasion got to us. The game itself didn't live up to the occasion, which is often the case when a match is built up so much.

As for the *haka*, we couldn't hear the All Blacks performing it because of the noise the crowd made. We had deliberately tried to ignore the *haka*; we were more interested in trying to concentrate on our own game. We didn't see why we should let it dominate our thoughts.

We didn't want to do what Ireland did and make a big scene

about it. I believe we got it about right by ignoring the whole thing. It was a pity we couldn't get our game right on the day.

We had not played the All Blacks for so long and we did not really know what to expect. It is okay watching videos but you need to play against people face-to-face. We got very tense beforehand, during the long build-up, and, frankly, we were pleased to get that match out of the way. It would have been a great lift to us had we won but defeat did not mean we could not reach the final.

Once the other matches started

to get going, and people focused their attention elsewhere, we found the tension disappeared a bit. We had some freedom to concentrate on Italy and I thought we played quite well.

In glimpses, Italy showed what a good side they can be and they scored a superb try. The trouble was that we had the match won just after half-time, at 30-0, and they clearly decided to try to kill the game and stop us scoring many more points. It resulted in a flood of penalties as they infringed at every breakdown. We could not achieve any continuity.

The stream of penalties raised the debate over the strict interpretation by officials of players staying on their feet. My view is that sometimes it is very difficult, for forwards particularly, to stay

on their feet. I can see why the officials want to stop all the bodies on the floor but I think there should be some leeway to allow people to go on to the floor if they are trying to secure a free ball.

The problem is this. At the moment, those in charge are trying to say no one else apart from the two players involved in the tackle can go on to the ground. Some players do not know what to do. They are being told they must stand around and try to pick up the ball but, if you do that, you get flattened by an opponent charging into the scene of the breakdown.

Do you stand over it, try to pick it up and get hit by the opposition, or stand back and let them get it? Some referees are penalising it very strictly, others are not.

It's a very difficult one and very

hard for referees to interpret but it is also causing confusion and causing players to give away penalties when I don't feel they have been trying to lie all over the ball. They have just been attempting to secure possession.

Overall, I feel the tournament is building up nicely. We have not had any classic matches yet but the titanic games will start in the quarter-finals. The game I have enjoyed most so far was the Australian-Western Samoa match. It was played in dreadful conditions - the worst for rugby - yet some of the skills shown were wonderful. It was a great spectacle, a very, very good game and the Samoans were very unlucky not to win it.

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Football League clubs agree to new idea

Players are now ready to play their full part

By PETER BALL

FOR the first time in the history of English professional football, the players are to be involved in the council chambers of the game. That was the most important development to come out of the meeting of 72 Football League clubs at Walsall yesterday as they came to terms with life after the launch of the Premier League next season.

The first meeting of the clubs since the split with the Premier League proved a radical and optimistic one. The clubs elected the League's three senior officers - Arthur Sandford, the chief executive, David Dent, the secretary, and Trevor Phillips, the commercial director - to form a planning committee to report back with proposals for a new constitution in a month's time.

That decision, and the mood of the meeting, will have taken some of the League's more virulent critics by surprise but suggestions that blood would be split yesterday - with Sandford a highly visible target - proved wide of the mark.

There were voices urging that the planning group should be formed by repre-

sentatives of the clubs but Bill Fox, the League president, insisted that the management committee members had their hands full already. The alternative proposal, for the election of the group which negotiated the terms of the separation with the first division, foundered for lack of support.

"We have a wide brief to consult and bring into the group anyone we want," Sandford, after the meeting in the conference centre at Walsall's stadium, said.

It is ironic that it is the Football League, whose critics have maintained that it is incapable of change, which is taking this step. They may have set a trend which the Premier League will find hard to resist although the Football Association - the Premier League's patron - has always been the most obstinate in its resistance to allowing the professional voices a say.

At the FA offices in London yesterday, the Premier League clubs began the process of putting their competition in place for next season. The clubs agreed to set up "task forces" in a bid to establish the main framework by Christmas.

Rick Parry, the Premier League spokesman, said: "I was pleasantly surprised at the progress made. We had that feeling of togetherness again." Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, said: "The meeting was very encouraging and productive."

The separate "task forces" will concentrate on matters relating to a new rule book, the relationship with players and contracts, and the new League's commercial activities and its relationship with the FA. They will "lock themselves away for 48 hours" and report back to the clubs on November 20.

More football, page 39

devalue the role that these other organisations can play. But we expect the PFA to be greatly involved in our deliberations about how we go forward."

The plan is an exciting one. Football's leaders have traditionally been reluctant to allow players any say in the game's administration, unlike more forward-looking sports like golf and tennis.

It is ironic that it is the



Soft Dutch: John Emmen, of The Netherlands, scrutinising Frank Bruno yesterday as the Briton's first comeback match was announced

Bruno begins comeback slowly

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Bruno sized up the first opponent of his comeback campaign, John Emmen, of The Netherlands, when they met in London yesterday. "He's a big, strong lad, nice looking. You've got to give him respect," was the verdict of the big man who returns to the ring at the Albert Hall, on November 20.

Emmen, who stands as straight as a guardsman and looks a bit like Jim Doyle in his guardsman days and a bit like a young Harry Simeone, and was seen as "a perfect gentleman" by John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, "a crowd pleaser" by Mickey Duff, the promoter, and "just

another soft touch" by the cynics.

Aged 32 he is a successful businessman (he owns a gym), a boxing commentator, a blow-up cruiserweight and the Benelux heavyweight champion, just the kind of opponent Bruno needs at this stage of his career, according to Morris.

Emmen was recommended

by the ratings committee of

the European Boxing Union.

"They said he's a character and can fight and is entertaining and if Frank needs a test, John is the man," Morris said.

However, the Dutchman's

record does not bear too close

a scrutiny. He was out of the

ring for one-and-a-half years,

returning in 1990. In his six

years as a professional he has

had only 18 contests, won 16

and lost two. He was stopped

in two rounds by the only big

name he faced, Francesco

Damiani, of Italy. Emmen was

beaten by Johnny Held, who

was beaten by Steve Mc-

Carthy, a British light heavy-

weight, who was stopped by

Tony Wilson's man, admitt-

edly with the help of a shoe.

"Emmen could go three

rounds or even five," Duff

said. "I would not be shocked

if it went ten."

It all depends on how sharp

Bruno is. According to George

Francis, his trainer, Bruno is

looking good, having sparred

50 rounds in the last three

weeks. He has been training

with a 19-and-a-half stone

American, Greg Payne, who

used to work with Mike

Tyson, but Bruno's timing has

not quite returned.

It's taking time for the timing to come back," Francis said. "But overall it's going well." Bruno said: "I've been through a lot of wranglings with my eye operation and people saying I shouldn't be doing it. I know it sounds crazy but I've got boxing in my blood. I've got to get it out of my system."

When asked if he would take the opportunity of getting a few rounds under his belt" Bruno said: "I won't mess around. You can't take chances in the ring. I hope I'll be cool and calm and do the job properly."

"Everybody's been chal-

lenging me Holmes, Sweet D

[Williams] and Lewis, but

I've got to learn to tuck before

I can run. You never know

after a few more fights a bout,

against Lewis might come to light. I've got to get the rust out of my body. I've got this king-sized bed. I chased the wife round it and couldn't catch her. Now I can."

Bruno has been working out at the gym of his former manager, Terry Lawless, the Royal Oak in Canning Town, but will shortly be going to a special training camp.

■ Bruno will share top-billing

with a world title fight John

"The Beast" Mugabi of

Uganda, the former WBC

super-welterweight champion

managed by Mickey Duff, will

fight Gerald McClellan, of

Detroit, for the World Boxing

Organisation middleweight

title which was vacated re-

cently by Chris Eubank.

More boxing, page 36

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Cricket summit on South Africa

By RICHARD STREETON

SOUTH African hopes of playing in cricket's World Cup in Australasia early next year were revived yesterday when the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed that a special meeting on the subject has been arranged in Sharjah. It will take place on October 23, the day after the Commonwealth conference ends in Harare.

ICC officials were understandably reluctant to speculate on what Commonwealth government heads will decide in Zimbabwe. Almost certainly, though, they will hope that any communiqué issued by the political leaders will encourage support for South Africa, the republic continuing its attempts to introduce a new constitution.

Guidance from this level for the ICC could set the seal on the concessionary mood that seems likely to prevail at the Sharjah meeting. By calling the meeting, the ICC have met constitutional objections from West Indies, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka to South Africa competing in the World Cup.

These four countries, who are playing a one-day tournament in Sharjah at the time

Azinger's anger spurs him

PAUL Azinger opened his defence of the BMW International Open yesterday by sharing the lead with Sandy Lyle, but the American believes he should not even be playing in Munich.

After shooting a seven-under-par 65, Azinger said: "I can't understand why Payne Stewart or I am doing here. We should be in the Dunhill Cup team at St Andrews."

"He is the US Open champion and I am ranked ninth in the world after playing with a shoulder injury this season. I can't work out from what criteria they pick the team."

Azinger, aged 31, from Florida, played near flawless golf to record seven birdies and looked sure to hold the overnight lead alone until Lyle rolled in a 30-footer at the last to join him.

Lyle said playing with Azinger and the European Ryder Cup team member, David Gilford, who scored a 67, had lifted him after three ten-foot putts failed to drop early in his round, leaving him one over par.

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Dunhill Cup, page 39

Fifa takes steps towards banning the back-pass

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

COMMENT

Two-goal lead by spending almost as much time retreating as advancing towards Stoke City's goal.

The former champions were indulging in a common practice, which would require the approval of at least six of the eight members of the board, who would be introduced at the start of next season.

In principle, the step is laudable. Anything done to discourage the practice, which was one of the contributory factors to the tedium of last summer's negative World Cup finals, would surely be well received. Those who attended the Rumbelows Cup tie at the Victoria Ground, on Wednesday night, for instance, would have been infuriated by Liverpool. In the closing half-hour, they chose to defend a

two-goal lead by spending almost as much time retreating as advancing towards Stoke City's goal.

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